

Imagine

Last year, I went to a concert by Nikolai Khozhainov, a Russian pianist famous for his Chopin playing. The concert was postponed due to the coronavirus outbreak. The originally scheduled date was before Ukraine and Russia started war. The substitute concert took place three months after the war began.

When the concert began, the Chopin program went on as planned.

He played eight pieces for encores. This was very unusual for a piano concert. I felt that his message was hidden in three of the selections. The first was the tragic Etude by the Ukrainian composer "Scriabin". The second was the Prelude in G minor by the Russian composer "Rachmaninoff". The last was the Moonlight by the French composer "Debussy". During the tragic Etude performance, the sound of crying and sniffing could be heard from the audience. I think everyone could not help but be reminded of the ongoing war in Ukraine. I could hear the sadness and anger of Khodzainov, a Russian who is eagerly studying Chopin. Chopin was one of those who lost his homeland to the Russian invasion. Later, Poland ceases to exist.

Rachmaninoff was also forced out of his country during the Russian Revolution and

fled to the United States. In the last piece he played the Moonlight, it made me think that the moon shines the same gentle, soft light on everyone, regardless of whether they are divided into two sides. And it seemed to say that everyone is the same person without superiority or inferiority.

Khodjainov's performance moved me more because he is from a country that was a party to the war. Sometimes we can receive feelings through his performance without words. His clean and pure performance made our hearts ache all the more.

I would like to know what is really in the hearts of people living in a country during war. It is always the ordinary citizens who suffer. I am sure they have a lot to say.

Attention to when playing Rachmaninoff's music is "pp". Pianissimo is a musical symbol played with small notes. In the case of Rachmaninoff's music, they are taught that pianissimo's feeling is fortissimo. I cannot say what I want to say. The words you really want to say may be hidden in your small voice. I feel that this may be one "aspect" of culture that a country has. As a Japanese, when I come in contact with a different culture, I feel that I should not look at things from my own point of view or my own way of thinking, and to stop imposing them on others. Just because you can

meet a different culture does not mean that you can interact with it. In order to interact with it, it is necessary to make an effort to learn about other cultures by actively obtaining information from books and other sources. It is also necessary to have the ability to imagine what the other person wants to say and what he or she values. I think that imagination is an important communication skill. It is hard to imagine what kind of words can encourage others, but I hope that by making an effort to learn about different cultures, the world will become a place where people can talk to each other and be kind to each other. [555 words]