

**Greeting by Ambassador Mizuuchi, September 1, 2023**

Mr. Norbert Totschnig, Federal Minister for Agriculture,  
Excellences,  
Dear Family Piatti,  
Ms. Machiko Hoshina, our Tea master, and her delegation,  
Distinguished Guests,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the hot Austrian summer is coming to an end, it is my great pleasure to be able to host this Reception possibly bidding farewell to summer while welcoming you all to my Residence. I would like, first, to thank Minister Totschnig, Ambassadors and all friends of Japanese culture for being with us despite their busy schedules. My special thanks go to Ms. Machiko Hoshina and her delegation for coming to Austria for the second time this year.

As you are already aware, today we have two special events in one; a demonstration of an authentic tea ceremony by Ms. Machiko Hoshina and a violin concert by Ms. Rino Yoshimoto.

Ms. Hoshina, who will address you later and perform an authentic tea ceremony, has been actively involved in the restoration of valuable Old Imari Porcelains from Japan which the Piatti Family has collected and kept in their Loosdorf Castle in Lower Austria, but were destroyed by the occupying Soviet soldiers after the World War II. After series of intensive research and hard work for restoration in Japan, the restored collection was presented in Japan and was admired at a number of exhibitions across the country with excitement.

In May this year, Ms. Hoshina brought the collection back home to Loosdorf. It was an honor for me to be invited to its presentation of homecoming and the opening of a follow up project which is led by Dr. Runkel of the University of Applied Arts Vienna for further research. I am sure that Loosdorf Castle, located close to the Czech border, will be a new attraction for tourists from Japan and other countries and serve as a center for cultural and academic exchanges in the future. Since this event has emerged as a topic of this year's marking of the 150th anniversary of the 1873 Vienna

World Exposition, I am secretly hoping that the restored Old Imari Collection might have a chance to be presented in Japan again at the Osaka/Kansai Expo 2025.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Now I am going to introduce to you Ms. Rino Yoshimoto, our future talent in violin. In Loosdorf in May, I mentioned a proverb “seeing is believing”. In Rino’s case I don’t need to say more than “hearing is believing”,

Having won the silver prize of last year’s Fritz Kreisler Award, she fascinated the audience including myself at the concert held for the Japanese community in Vienna earlier this year. What a pleasure for me to have her here at today’s Reception.

I simply hope that you will enjoy her performance today and be convinced that she deserves your support as she embarks on her journey as a young violinist.

With these words I wish you all an enjoyable evening.

Thank you.