

MUSIC

AND THE FUTURE OF
PYONGYANG

대집단체조와 예술공연

아리랑



Kathmandu, Nepal

MUSIC AND THE FUTURE OF PYONGYANG

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Contents

Preface.....	3
1. Philosophy on music.....	6
(a) A song titled "Green Pine on Nam Hill"	9
(b) A miracle of crossing the death line with a song.....	15
2. A country with many pieces of music.....	26
(a) An unusual impression	27
(b) The specific aspect of Korean music	32
(c) Everybody can play a musical instrument.....	41
3. Music-based politics.....	49
(a) A great man's world of music.....	50
(b) Songun music.....	65
(c) Korean music as seen by the world	76
Conclusion	82

Preface

I have already heard reports of western media on the DPRK scores of times.

They released false reports that the Koreans have not emotion, but only sigh with worries about food.

I want to ask the subsidized trumpeters:

Have you ever been to Korea?

Do you know what Koreans think of and what makes them laugh and advance?

And do you know how high their cultural as well as ideological level is?

You would not know, but pretend to know with an aim to set afloat false rumors.

Distortion, however, can not cover truth.

I have visited Korea many times.

So, I believe that I know the noble traits of Koreans better than anybody else.

They are more optimistic, hopeful and jubilant than any other nation.

They are also sincere, enterprising and brave.

It is true that the Korean people have suffered hardships in their economy over the past 10 odd years.

But it is wrong to think that standstill of factories and lack of food deprived them of emotion.

Staying in Korea, I was honored to be received by President **Kim Il Sung** and he gave concrete answers to different questions I raised.

In June 19, 1979 the President was very busy giving guidance to a meeting in a northern area.

But he made time to receive the journalists' delegation of Nepal.

Today too, I often remember what President **Kim Il Sung** remarked at that time.

Still vivid in my ears are his remarks pertaining to the independent development of a country.

Defining ours as the era of independence, he said:

Now the people who embarked on the road of the building of a new society understand through their actual life that they should do everything to suit the actual conditions of their countries and so they do not follow

any established formula or a model of any other country, but do in their own way to suit their own situation.

Thinking of the remarks of President **Kim Il Sung**, I looked into the different aspects of life of Korea with deep attention.

If one wants to know a state, one should see its people and for that, one should know their desire and emotion.

In not so distant a future the Korean people will greet the centenary of the Great President **Kim Il Sung**.

Centenary of a great man!

This is a happy event of all humankind, not to speak of the Korean people.

As a foreigner who saw President **Kim Il Sung**, I want to make the world people know Korea which is called **Kim Il Sung** Korea.

Of course, you can not know all about Korea through this book alone.

So, I'd like to tell of the truth by introducing how the Koreans raised by President **Kim Il Sung** treat music.

1. Philosophy on music

Humankind created music along with their origin and have developed it.

In the 10 century there appeared the seven scale musical notation as a means to preserve and hand down the music created by man.

The existing five staff notation was completed in the 17th century.

And in 1665 a digital notation was proposed by Suaidi of France.

Since then, a wealth of musical heritages has been created in the world.

Staying in Korea I had an opportunity to see the "Great Collection of Korean Songs" which comprises 8,500 famous Korean songs.

In this article I'd like to quote part of its preface.

"If anybody across the ocean and continent in this world wants to know Juche Korea, he should know Korean songs.

If he is to know Korean songs, he'd better open this 'great collection of Korean songs.

Then, he would know how a colonial Korea rose imposingly, braving all kinds of trials and has emerged victorious and glorious as today"

The Great Leader **Kim Jong Il** said:

"I always think of Korean revolution and songs.

In a certain meaning the Korean revolution started from songs, advanced in songs and emerged triumphant with songs.

Korean revolution is a heroic epic which embroidered a victorious history with songs."

Every country and nation has its own music.

Then, what was their view of music?

They treated music as a simple melody or rhythm or time.

In the past lots of discussions were made about music.

A certain man defined music as "an art of beauty through the sense of hearing" or "an art of spirit".

A Belgian musician Ferris said music is an art exciting people by the arrangement of sounds.

In ancient Egypt some people said music is a "golden remedy of human soul" and tried to use music as a means of medical treatment.

The King of the Chao dynasty of China is said to have treated his neurasthenia by means of music and a German philosopher is said to have tided over a serious disease by hearing opera "Carmen" repeatedly.

Recently there appeared a positive attempt to use music for the treatment of inveterate diseases.

Music is also said to stimulate the growth of plant.

So, music is a remedy to treat human soul and stimulate the growth of plant.

Music can not be explained in the conception of music alone.

Every country and nation explains music with its unique characteristics.

I have found a philosophy of music.

It is the noble world of Korean music.

I'd like to explain it with things that I witnessed and experienced during my repeated visit to Korea.

(a) A song titled "Green Pine on Nam Hill"

Korea has beautiful nature.

So, this country is called "Land of morning calm" or "Three thousand-ri land of beautiful scenery".

Korea is also a country with beautiful people.

The Koreans have a warm human touch, unselfish devotion, diligence and love for literature and arts.

My Korean friends guided me to the old home of President **Kim Il Sung** in Mangyongdae as the first course of my visit to the DPRK.

Mangyongdae is a historic place where Great President **Kim Il Sung**, the eternal sun of humankind was born on April 15, 1912.

When my car ran for about 20 minutes from the hotel, there was seen a low hill skirted by a blue river.

The river was Taedong River.

From Mangyong hill covered with pine trees, pine nut trees, shrubs and different kinds of ornamental trees in good harmony one can see a variety of scenes.

Among them a pine forest on the south of the hill was especially beautiful.

The dark red barks of trees seemed to have undergone bitter trials for a long time, but green leaves were exuberant on every branch.

Koreans love pine tree in particular.

Nepalese may not yet know well about Korea.

Korea has a long winter season.

In winter a cold frost and snow fall and then almost all trees shed their leaves and go into winter sleep.

Pine trees, however, remain green as ever in cold snow and wind and get over severe cold and, at last, greet a warm spring day.

Koreans liken the pine tree overcoming the cold of winter to a man braving hardships.

Probably because of it, pine trees can be seen in many pictures or trademarks or literary and art works.

This thought of mine was changed by explanation of a woman lecturer in beautiful national clothes.

Indicating Green Pine on Nam Hill, she recited a poem in deep thought.

*Comrade, do you know The
green pine on Nam Hill
The rigors of snow and frost
Make strike But life returns
When spring comes round
With warm sunshine.*

The song was written by Kim Hyong Jik, father of the Great President **Kim Il Sung** and outstanding leader of the national liberation movement of Korea in the 1920s when Korea was reduced to a colony due to the invasion of the Japanese imperialists.

*If I can't achieve independence
What should I live for
Even if my body is torn to pieces,
I will never yield on the road of liberation
My fellow countrymen, believe me*

*If I fall in fight,
Our posterity would fight on
And bring a warm sunshine*

To this beautiful land

That day shout for independence, Korea

The song excited me, a foreigner, greatly. The song was entitled "Green Pine on Nam Hill".

Then, what in the song attracted me so much?

It was the ideological and emotional contents of the song as well as its tender and plain rhythm.

It arouses a desire for life like haze in a spring day and makes the blood of heart surge like tempest on a desert.

The words of the song call for continuous revolution. I am fond of music.

I like to hear music of any nation while striving to find musical languages in it.

It is my hardened taste.

Afterwards, I began to be interested in the history of music of Korea.

Korean music has a very long history.

According to data, in the early BC 30 Ryo Ok, a woman musician of Korea sang a song titled "Konghuin" while playing a national musical instrument Konghu.

Counting from the date, the history spans far longer than 5,000 years.

In the long period Korea has created a great deal of musical heritages.

The musical heritages show that Korean music is stronger than any other country's music in national color, popular emotion, a desire for truth and support for justice.

The music of Korea also reflects a desire for life and the joy of labor in a diversified manner with the feelings unique to the people of the east.

In many cases, however, almost all of the musical pieces created in the modern time were permeated with lamentation and rancor against Japan's invasion and infringement of sovereignty of Korea.

It is true that there were a few songs of resistance, but Japan's governor generalship did not allow any trait of it.

In the long run, there appeared the theme of enlightenment in Korean music in the early 20 century.

Just at that time Kim Hyong Jik, leader of the national liberation movement of Korea produced the song "Green pine on Nam Hill".

With the song he broke the musical emotion of grief and rancor and provided the origin of music of revolution and struggle.

He also created the "Song of Advance", "Arise, Countrymen" and other songs and spread them widely among school youths and children and other patriotic people.

The songs called on the Korean people to unite for driving out the Japanese aggressors.

Korea regards the song as the root of the revolutionary musical heritage.

The song "Green pine on Nam Hill" shattered the emotion of tear, sorrow and implanted ardor, optimism, confidence and fighting spirit and thus carved out the era of music of revolutionary emotion.

Just here in lies the significance of the song in the history of music.

(b) A miracle of crossing the death line with a song

Before entering into the main subject I'd like to raise the following problems.

Everybody knows the might of a bomb.

Destruction, murder, arson, ruin and other phenomena strike people with terror.

Then, what does music give them?

Melody, rhythm and time ...

Does it mean that bomb is terrible, but music is not?

We should not make a hasty conclusion.

In the late 1920s - the early 1930s Korean music got out of the simple framework of enlightenment and began to serve as an important means to propagate the truth of revolution and make people conscious politically.

The characteristic and form of music were renovated basically.

Then, what is its foundation?

During my stay in beautiful country Korea, I read the Great President **Kim Il Sung**'s masterpiece "With the Century".

Back home too, I read through the book from vol.1 to vol. 8.

I marveled at the great personality of President **Kim Il Sung**.

Since his birth the President devoted his all only to the people throughout his life.

Reading the book, I confirmed the words that his death reduced the weight of the earth.

Every episode of the book excited me, but I was more deeply moved at the "Snowstorm of Tienchiaoling" of "Chapter 9 the first campaign in north Manchuria" from "Part 1 anti-Japanese revolution".

During the anti-Japanese armed struggle in northeast China the Great President **Kim Il Sung** conducted the first campaign in north Manchuria in the latter part of January 1935 to help detachments in north Manchuria.

On his way back he was attacked by a serious illness in the severe cold of about 40 degrees below zero, hunger as well as repeated fierce battles.

At that time the Japanese imperialists obstinately pursued his unit clamoring "If 100 of our troops are beaten, 100 can take their place.

But the Communists have no reserves to replace their men even if only one of them is killed."

Just at that time Commander **Kim Il Sung**, the destiny and Sun of Korea fell seriously ill.

Commander **Kim Il Sung**'s small unit composed only of 16 soldiers was surrounded by the enemy in waist-deep snow.

When their commander lost his consciousness in high fever, the soldiers were heartbroken and only shed tears.

The Korean revolution was laid at the crossroads of collapse or survival.

At the decisive moment Commander **Kim Il Sung** said to himself:

Even if the sky breaks down, we should remain alive
at any cost and make revolution...

If we collapse here, the Korean people would remain
the slaves of the Japanese imperialists forever.

Lying on a stretcher, he composed a song.

*The hoofs of the Japs' horses sound ever louder
They trample down our beautiful country
Committing murder and arson, exploiting, plundering
Riding over tens of millions of our people
My parents, your brother and his wife and children
They shed blood stabbed by the bayonets
My house and your field are reduced
To ashes and wilderness by the enemy*

Rise and unite, working masses Fight on with
unchangeable resolves Smash the white terror under the
red flag Sing in triumph and shout hurrah.

When Commander **Kim Il Sung** sang the song
together with his orderly, all his men rose to their feet
and joined him in chorus. A miracle occurred.

The men who had fallen down on the snow with fatigue and despair were provided with "food".

It was a food of spirit, will and faith given by a revolutionary music.

That was the famous "Song of Anti-Japanese War".

Singing the song written by their Commander, the soldiers were inspired by its idea and truth and fought resolutely to break through the besieging enemy lines.

Music brought their spiritual strength and will into full play.

There are great deals of such legend-like stories. When he set out on the road of revolution, President **Kim Il Sung** clarified the idea of "music bomb" that where the bayonet of revolution can not reach, revolutionary songs take the place of bombs and paid a special attention to the creation of revolutionary music.

The President **Kim Il Sung** remarked that the revolution itself is a solemn symphony and the ground of songs and there can not be any revolution apart from songs.

He also said the Korean revolution started with songs and continued with songs.

In his teens on the road of revolution for Korea's independence, the Great President **Kim Il Sung** wrote a famous song titled "Song of Korea" to make schoolchildren and other people of different strata and composed the " Nostalgia" and many other songs to educate them in patriotism.

*Our country is called Korea With beautiful
morning sun rays Such a precious and fine
land We can find nowhere in the world
Our country has treasures all over the land
With a five thousand year long history
Drive out the vicious Japs*

*And ring the bell of liberation
Set up our power in a free land A new
Korea without Japs and landlords Our
country of resourceful people Glorify it by
ourselves forever*

The Great President **Kim Il Sung** was the eldest son of the family which produced the song "Green pine on Nam Hill".

He also created many revolutionary songs and propagated them among Korean revolutionaries and thus inspired them with strength and courage to brave all hardships and a sea of blood optimistically and in the long run drove out the Japanese imperialists and achieved the independence of Korea.

Anti-Japanese heroine Kim Jong Suk, the mother of the Leader **Kim Jong Il** loved music more than anybody else. Wherever she fought, there rang songs. Even during a battle on Kansam Hill she sang a favorite song of the Korean people "Arirang" and thus encouraged the soldiers and frightened the enemy.

The vitality of the revolutionary music was displayed not during the anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle alone.

The influence of music and songs was manifested to the full.

Korea has a form of music called wartime song which means music created during the war.

Hearing wartime songs of Korea, I could not but be surprised.

I had thought that songs created in the battle field must be gloomy and sad.

But they were not so.

The "Ode to Marshal **Kim Il Sung**" was sung by people's army soldiers at the trench when they signed a letter of pledge to President **Kim Il Sung** under a rain of shells.

The song "To a Decisive Battle" was sung by people's army soldiers when they were advancing to annihilate the enemy.

"Song of Coast Artillerymen" reflects their fighting spirit to annihilate the enemies.

On the other hand, "My song in the Trench", "At the Spring Site" and many other songs sang of the war life optimistically and emotionally.

The music created during the fierce war was a spring water of mysterious strength for the Korean people. What was particularly surprising was the fact that a servicemen's art festival was held during the fierce war.

People's army soldiers made different kinds of national instruments and even percussion instruments such as "bottle instrument" (using bottles containing different quantity of water for timbre) and performed them even at national festivals.

Hearing the optimistic songs of soldiers, the people believed in victorious war, felt a warm love for their life and a burning hatred for the enemy and pledged to retaliate against the enemy.

The war history of the world records the fact that art troupes visited battle fields to perform for fighting soldiers, but there has never been a fact that soldiers facing a decisive battle held a servicemen's art festival with musical instruments of their own making.

We remember the song "Internationale". Fighters of the Commune of Paris sang the song on barricades, smashing a myth of eternity of the capital and calling for revolution.

The song is sung today too, but their celebration of victory lasted only three months.

The "Internationale" written by Eugene Pottier and composed by Pierre Degeyter will last forever as a cultural heritage of the working class.

It is doubtless.

Unfortunately, however, fighters of the Commune of Paris had not a leader who would fix the song as a heroic epic and create a second and third "Internationale" for the working class.

What should we know here?

Without a distinguished leader who personified a music philosophy, a musical heritage can not serve as a means to excite the people, nor can it be a philosophical music with eternal vitality.

Now let us consider.

I'd like to ask whether music is a flow of simple melody, rhythm and time or, as some medical and biological scholars say, it is a medicine to stimulate the growth of organism or treat diseases.

In Korea they say: "Where there is life, there is music and where there is music, there is life."

It is a golden saying made by the Great Leader **Kim Jong Il** in his classic work "On the art of music".

The Korean people consider music to be the most intimate art of human life which gives people a warm passion for life, rich emotion, vibrating animation, and hope for the future and optimism.

They regard life as music and music as life.

Westerners should never be so foolish as to speak ill of their outlook on music and the future.

It is already long ago that on the basis of the Juche idea the Great Leader of the Korean people His Excellency **Kim Jong Il** gave a perfect explanation on the nature of music, its mission and role, and its contents and form, thereby elevating the music of Korea to the highest plane.

How the Westerners, rock and jazz maniacs can slander such a country of music as Korea.

It is really deplorable.

2. A country with many pieces of music

Let me open the "Great Collection of Korean songs" again.

The bulky book comprises more than 8,500 famous songs created in the 20 century from the 1910s.

Korea has many songs.

Everywhere we can appreciate music and everybody likes to hear music and sing a song.

The songs and music have no trace of sorrow and madness.

Koreans say:

"A genuine music is faithful to the requirement of the time and contributes to the mission of the era"

They are right, I think.

In Korea music is born together with the time, breathes together with the time and pushes ahead with the time.

This is the reason why Korea has a wealth of music.

(a) An unusual impression

The day when I arrived in Pyongyang I happened to pass by a kindergarten near the hotel at which I put up.

I witnessed an unusual scene.

Almost all children have a small violin or an accordion or a clarinet in their hand.

What was more surprising was the fact that four or five year old children were singing music.

That was not a simple melody of a song, but an instrumental music arranged by experts.

I watched them for a while.

Mr. Kim, my guide, kindly explained.

According to him, in Korea every child enters a kindergarten through a nursery (free of charge).

Usually, when the kindergarteners reach about 4 years (lower class), they are taught how to play a musical instrument.

Among them those who have fine musical sense are selected to be given a genius education. By the way, I'd like to talk about a genius education in the DPRK.

An extraordinary temperament can be developed aright only when it is fostered with care.

Under the guidance of the Workers' Party of Korea this country has long enforced a genius education for those who have extraordinary aptitude and talent.

Talented musician called by the Koreans is utterly different from the genius defined by subsidized scholars of the west.

The western theory on genius is based on the reactionary racism and fatalism.

From the start the theory divides people into the talented and dull-brained and absolutizes it.

It is an unscientific theory.

The genius education of Korea is a political and professional education for the new generation with outstanding musical temperament.

Musical temperament appears in childhood.

That's why in the time of kindergarten and primary school it is necessary to select those with keen musical sense and physical suppleness to acquire complex and fine technical movement and give them early education.

The time of kindergarten is just fit for it.

The children I met belonged to them.

The children master music and grow up, forming society.

Then how good a musical environment they would present!

It was a reality.

Korea was a country of music where everybody creates music and enjoys it.

Every historical period calls for music corresponding to it and the music of every period reflects the period.

There can not exist any music separated from time.

The lively music of Korea is unthinkable apart from the exuberant reality of Korea.

The Korean people are living in the Songun era, a higher era of the struggle for independence of the masses of people.

The Songun era guided by His Excellency Great **Kim Jong Il** demands all members of society work and struggle in the principle and trait of revolutionary army.

In Korea there are created music corresponding to Songun era and contributing to the mission of Songun era. I witnessed a strange scene and experienced a strange view of music. In Korea all the excellent feelings and emotion of music were oriented to embody the basic ground of the life and struggle of the popular masses to safeguard independence. It moved me deeply.

Korean people reject such music as only some experts like, but broad working masses cannot understand. Korean music is run through with popularity.

For the purpose this country develops the form of popular music in a sound and noble manner.

Staying in Korea, I saw the performance of the state symphony orchestra.

Still I remember an orchestral music titled "A Bumper Harvest in the Chongsan Plain".

I want to advise those who do not know Korea to appreciate even the orchestral music.

The quiet melody of wind and string instruments sounds like the soft rumbling of tractors on the abundant field at an early morning of the fall.

It is harmonized with the lively look of countryside and the peasants' joy of creation and optimism.

I imagine a smiling peasant with a sheaf of rice straw in his arm and joyful children singing of bumper crops.

The Koreans like that kind of music.

They reject such music as is unable to infuse lively strength into the hearts of people.

They have nothing to do with such music as is arousing sorrow and pessimism and inciting vulgar and deformed dissipation and dissoluteness.

There is not a trace of decadent "pop music" such as jazz, rock and disco.

All people, young and old, like their own music and create and enjoy music.

It is really a distinct feature of Korea never to be seen in the world.

I hope the Koreans would keep their own unique feature and glorify it forever.

(b) The specific aspect of Korean music

I could find worthwhile life in factories, farms and all other places of Korea and a beautiful music ringing in the life.

The cultural level of the Korean people, musical level in particular, is high beyond comparison and their music is diversified and unique.

As all of us know, music is divided into vocal and instrumental one according to the means and form of its expression.

First of all, Korea is developing vocal music in a different way because its content and representation are easily understood to everybody and the masses of people like to sing songs in their daily life.

Song is most closely linked with the life of popular masses.

Under the help of my interpreter I divided the songs of the "Great Collection of Korean Songs" by themes.

They are largely divided into hymns of praise of the exploits of the party and the leader such as the "Song of General **Kim Il Sung**" and the "Song of General

Kim Jong Il'', songs of the themes of revolutionary traditions and patriotism and songs of national reunification and the cause of human independence.

Of course, there is no trace of sorrow, pessimism and despair.

All of the musical pieces of Korea are overflowing with the solemn and lively feelings of loyalty to the party and the leader, boundless love for the country and the nation.

They give the joy and optimism of life to the people.

They are like a banner and slogan to lead them to the struggle and victory.

Some of them reflect the emotion of life like the heat haze of a spring day and gentle wave, thunder-like spirit and courage, burning ardor and love. All of them, however, have a bright and passionate aspect. Why does the Korean music bear such a bright and passionate aspect?

As all other forms of literature and arts music also reflects human life.

Music shows the ideological sentiment of man as the manifestation of emotion by their inner impulse. So, if life is not bright and cheerful, the aspect of music can not be bright.

If the Korean people are suffering hunger and human right issue as westerners clamor, how can they produce such a beautiful melody?

According to data, the daily "Rodong Shinmun" of Korea carries 2 songs every week on the average and they are sung widely.

There can not be any feeling without thought and there can not be emotion without thought and feeling.

So it is necessary to look into the life which is reflected in Korean music.

First of all, let us see the social system.

The official nomenclature of this country is the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

It reflects the character of the social system.

Korean socialism fully provides all conditions and circumstances to materialize the independence of the popular masses.

The eternal President of this country His Excellency Great **Kim Il Sung** waged the anti-Japanese armed struggle for over 20 years and at last, liberated Korea on August 15, 1945.

Right after liberation Korea carried out the anti-imperialist and anti-feudal democratic revolution and socialist revolution to lay a firm foundation to provide independence to the people.

In 1946 alone President **Kim Il Sung** promulgated the law on agrarian reform, the law on nationalization of major industries, and the law on sexual equality and enforced other democratic reforms.

He also introduced the universal free medical service system, the 11 year free and compulsory education system and other socialist policies.

In 1973 he declared the complete abolition of tax system for the first time in the world.

The means of production were divided into all people ownership and cooperative ownership, thereby making the entire people the masters of the means of production.

The citizen above 17 exercises the right to elect and to be elected. It means that every citizen participates in state building and, at the same time, is the master of the country.

The Workers' Party of Korea regards it as the main issue and objective of its activity to raise the standards of living and cultural level of the people to the highest plane and fights for the purpose.

Such a right social policy can not but produces marvelous music.

In kindergartens and schools there ring children's song, on cooperative fields songs of bumper year and at factories songs of creation and innovation and in the far away defense line songs of victory of one-match-for-a-hundred army.

Over the recent 10-odd years the Korean people have suffered difficulties because of repeated natural disasters.

Korea calls the days Arduous march and forced march.

Then how did the Korean people overcome the difficult days?

Did anybody help them or did they beg somebody?

No.

The Korean people tided over the hardship with songs in support of the Songun revolutionary leadership of His Excellency Great **Kim Jong Il**.

Even when the factory stopped and electric power failed, the Korean people lived with optimism saying "Let us go the thorny path cheerfully!".

United single-mindedly around their leader they brought about victory boldly singing songs of confidence and struggle.

Here is a song on the severe trials.

Even today the Koreans sing in tears the song entitled "We Will Never Forget".

How difficult days passed on this land

What a rugged road we walked

The General started on the hill of bitter tears

We will never forget the arduous march

*He crossed Chol Pass to defend the country
He went to Kangye to open a paradise
The General shared even a bowl of porridge
We will never forget the trying days
Without the General Korea would have died
Thanks to him we won
With arms ahead of us as ever
We will believe and follow only him
The General guarded the red flag alone
We will never forget his undying feats*

Singing the song, the army and people of Korea remember the trying days when they withstood hunger and grief.

The song reflects the history of the Workers' Party of Korea led by His Excellency Great **Kim Jong Il** and the faith of the Korean army and people faithful to his leadership infinitely.

The songs in the most pleasant days and the songs in the most difficult days are all bright and fresh.

They can be different in the lightness and solemnity to some extent, but in total the Korean music is all clear and bright.

It proves that the Korean people are enjoying a bright and hopeful life at present.

The Korean people do not know pessimism.

Undergoing so harsh a trial over the past 10-odd years, they have kept the unshakable outlook on the future and posterity to live today not for today, but for tomorrow and traveled the proud road of creation and innovation singing songs.

That's why the Korean music is a powerful spiritual food giving the army and peoples a firm faith in victory.

What kinds of music are there? First of all, there are many songs praising their leader and party.

Those songs reflect the boundless praise and adoration for President **Kim Il Sung** and Leader **Kim Jong Il**. They include among others "Long Live Generalissimo **Kim Il Sung**", "The People Sing of their Leader", "We Are the Happiest in the World", "Ode to Comrade

Kim Jong Il" and "Lights from the Party Central Committee" .

The songs proudly sing of President **Kim Il Sung** and Leader **Kim Jong Il** as fathers of the nation, peerless patriots and heaven-born great men.

They also warmly praise the dignity of the country and nation which are prospering under the guidance of the Workers' Party of Korea.

What is noteworthy is the fact that songs are specialized according to occupation, age, sex and also to suit time and place.

The people's army has many songs.

Every service and arm has its own unique songs singing of its life and feeling.

There are songs of national food, cradlesongs, and songs of children's play and so on.

Just that's why Koreans say that life is music and life in going on in Music.

(c) Everybody can play a musical instrument

All of us know such musicians as Hayden, Mozart, Schubert and Mozart and Vienna, a city of music which produced many famous musicians in the past centuries.

I saw a country of music of the east in the 21st century.

In Korea music is not enjoyment of experts, but creation and possession of the popular masses.

One day my guide asked if I care for smoking, operate a computer and know music.

I wondered why he asked such a question.

He said those who smoke, do not know how to work a computer and can not understand music are three fools of the 21st century. It was a funny talk.

In Korea I heard the same talk from other persons too. They regard those who are ignorant of music as fools.

This shows how high their cultural level is.

In actuality, all Koreans, regardless of age and occupation, love music.

First of all, the social atmosphere is so high as forgetting oneself without music.

Under the suggestion and wise guidance of the Great Leader **Kim Jong Il** this country is unfolding a mass movement called "Three-Revolution Red Flag Movement".

It is an ideological movement to prepare all members of society to be completely independent and creative beings in all aspects of ideology, technology and culture.

The cultural aspect of the movement calls for playing one or more musical instrument skillfully.

Playing musical instruments has become a social trend in this country. In Korea I often found children, youths and students and working people carrying with themselves Kayagum, a national instrument, guitar and accordion.

The scene I saw while walking on Moran Hill and the Taedong River was as good as a picture and a marvelous symphony. Some people there were playing the accordion; flute or other popular instrument and some others were singing or dancing.

In Korea art festivals are organized in various manners.

What is worth seeing is the contest of art circles of servicemen families. It is held every year. The contest began to be held in the Songun era when the Korean people were conducting the Arduous March and building a prosperous and powerful nation.

Participating in it are the wives of the commander and political commissar of combined unit, the wives of naval officers on remote island outpost, airmen, tank men and extra officers.

The contest estimates performed pieces according to their ideological and artistic features and highly commend the performers.

The successful performances are widely introduced all over the country to generalize the success.

I was surprised at the fact that though he was busy leading the whole work of the party, army and state, Leader **Kim Jong Il** saw the performance of art circles of servicemen families and called them "The second Songun trumpeters".

The contest recorded a lot of exciting stories.

The wife of an officer who arrived in Pyongyang for the contest was brought into the Pyongyang maternity hospital earlier than her expected date of confinement.

And so, she could not participate in the contest performance for Leader **Kim Jong Il**.

Regretful of her failure to take part in the honorable contest, she named her son "Kyongyon" or contest.

Informed of the fact, Leader **Kim Jong Il** was very pleased, saying it was a great event in the contest and they should be looked for well and saw to it that she was given the same gift as the other participants and conferred the best actress award.

Another attractive thing in this country is a national singing contest of working people which is held every year. When I was staying in Pyongyang recently, I saw the 16th singing contest. Its level was surprising indeed. The contest is held in sections.

In the section for workers of the 16th singing contest the first prize was awarded to a chorus performed by

workers of the building repair company in a local city Sariwon.

Though they were not professionals, the singers were as good as professionals in skills.

In the countryside the 34th national art festival of agricultural workers was held in January 2006 to mark February 16, the birthday of Leader **Kim Jong Il**. The contest involved thousands of agricultural workers.

Hundreds of them who were selected at the provincial contest took part at the national contest and displayed their musical skill.

In this country the children begin to learn music at nursery and kindergarten and everybody in society can play a musical instrument, amusing themselves.

This country regards the popularization of music as the key to the successful building of Juche-based music.

Popularizing music means to involve the broad masses of people in the creation of music and develop music in reliance on their wisdom and make all members of society enjoy music to their hearts content.

In other words, it means making the masses of people the genuine masters of music.

For the purpose it is important to make them join in musical activities.

Under such a policy the Korean people have achieved a great success.

They say with pride that they prosper in songs and advance with songs.

Here is an anecdote proving that.

One early May day in 1987 Leader **Kim Jong Il** happened to pass by a farm village.

In Korea early May is the season of sowing.

Peasants were enjoying a recreation session.

Leader **Kim Jong Il** stopped and heard the peasants sing on the place, saying if he approached, the merriment must be spoiled.

Having heard the optimistic songs of peasants for a while, Leader **Kim Jong Il** said: A song is among the people and a singer is also among them.

Song is just the mind and feeling of the people.

As we have seen today, if we go to the people, we can hear songs.

There is not a workplace without song.

Nor is there a battle field without song.

As I have always said, neither revolution nor construction can be made without song.

This is my firm faith.

In popularizing music Korea realizes a new principle to give priority to the people's army and then propagate their creation in society.

In the course of it this country tided over the trend of mysticizing music and inclining to professional-centered principle.

Art groups are organized at people's army posts, factories and farms, schools and residential quarters.

They conduct brisk art activities.

It is a glimpse of the life of the Korean people. Now I remember what I witnessed at the home of a friend of mine.

One day I was invited to a friend of mine in the suburbs of the city.

Entering his home, I found him teaching his young son how to drive a car.

He said his son should learn how to drive for livelihood, because it is very difficult to get a job in our society.

His wife was also learning French cookery.

What a sharp contrast they are!

Some people were learning music for the brilliant future, but some others were striving to acquire a technique for livelihood.

3. Music-based politics

It is a too great honor for me to record golden sayings of Leader **Kim Jong Il**, a saint of humankind, Great Leader of the people and great master of music as follows:

"It is a truth that where there is loud song there is revolution and victory.

This is just what I say philosophy of song.

I love song. It means that I love philosophy of song."

"A revolutionary song can be said to be a marching song ringing loudly at the ranks of struggle and a march of the era."

How wise the sayings are!

Has any leader in history ever estimated the philosophy of music so highly and placed the strength of music on the position of a march of the era?

I remember not a few remarks left by famous musician of the world.

They considered music to be a rhythmic harmony of melody and a product of skills.

In other words, they regarded music as a product of human emotion and the expression of feelings and as the reflection of life.

Korea, however, enforces music-based politics.

It is really marvelous.

Music-based politics was unheard-of in history.

The word crystallizes a philosophical idea that the vitality of music is rooting in a sacred soil of politics.

The Great Leader **Kim Jong Il** said the mission of music in our era is to back up politics emotionally and music should serve politics and music without politics is as good as a flower without fragrance and politics without music is a heartless politics.

This is his outlook on music.

What is the strongest in the world is the idea of man, then, how powerful the music-based politics would be as it arouses the idea.

(a) A great man's world of music.

- Music is my first love!-

This is a significant remark made by the Great Leader **Kim Jong Il** whom the world looks up to.

The world praises Leader **Kim Jong Il** as a heaven-born brilliant commander and a legendary hero who has the United States, a superpower, at his beck and call.

But few people may know that music is his first love.

Many people know that Leader **Kim Jong Il** in his teens fired the first shot with a pistol handed over by mother Kim Jong Suk, but they might not know that, at the same time, he created a famous song titled "My mother" and before his teens he created the "Song of best wishes" with his earnest desire for the good health and happiness of the Great President **Kim Il Sung**.

Leader **Kim Jong Il** kept music as his first love along with the rifle which is said not to know any betrayal.

He is well-versed in all of the music of the world. He regards music not as a simple means of entertainment and pleasure, but as a powerful weapon of the revolution.

Possessed of such an outlook on music and with distinguished musical disposition and extraordinary

creative ability, he set up a new milestone for the development of human music.

He is really the incarnation of music.

At the end of the 1990s the Korean people unexpectedly lost the father of the nation President **Kim Il Sung**.

With the pain of the great loss they were undergoing the trying period called "Arduous march".

At that time Leader **Kim Jong Il** told officials that in the future when Korea defeated imperialism and emerged victorious in the revolution, they should think that the struggle was led to victory not only by a great statesman and great brilliant commander, but by a genuine man who loved the people infinitely and was fond of music.

Leader **Kim Jong Il** who is looked up by humankind is a genuine man who loves the people and loves music as well as a great politician and brilliant commander!

Then, how Leader **Kim Jong Il** treats music.

First of all, he attaches importance to its contents.

To ignore and deny the contents of music is an expression of art for art's sake and formalism. It is a

reactionary assertion to cry for "art for art" and "pure beauty of form" and eradicate the sound and revolutionary idea and contents. He believes that music which sings only of nature and shows a pure beauty is of little significance in the revolutionary struggle.

Leader **Kim Jong Il** teaches that when singing of nature, music should reflect the independent and creative stance and attitude of man toward nature and, when showing beauty, it should show the inborn beauty of man which makes him beautiful and the noble beauty of the idea and sentiment of man who is struggling to defend the independence of man.

Only then, can music become a genuine music.

Leader **Kim Jong Il** also thinks that the form of music should be popular.

Then, what is the popular form?

According to Leader **Kim Jong Il**, the music which meets the sentiment and emotion of the popular masses and they can understand and enjoy should be based on the popular form.

When the idea and sentiment of the popular masses were expressed by musical language which they can understand and enjoy, the music can be said to possess the popular form.

Musical language is not used in daily life, but only in music.

The popular character of the musical language shows the serve-the-people character of music.

Symphony, chamber music and other professional music which have a long history could neither have broad audience nor have been disseminated broadly because they lacked the serve-the-people character.

On the principle Leader **Kim Jong Il** clarified that if music is to be provided with the serve-the-people character, it should be provided with popularity. The popularity of the form of music clarified by him has nothing to do with pop music in the old society, but it is based on the noble artistic quality.

The Great Leader **Kim Jong Il**'s theory on the creation of music is embodied in his works as a classical example of the creation of music.

The "Song of Best Wishes" (1953) and "The Embrace of My Motherland" created by him before his teens and "My Mother" (1959) and "O Korea, I Will Add Glory to Thee" (1960) and many other pieces of music are completely embodying the revolutionary contents and national and popular form. That's why they are sung by more and more people as the days go by.

Not only the words, but the music of those pieces was all given by Leader **Kim Jong Il**.

The musical disposition of Leader **Kim Jong Il** surprised creators and professionals during the days when he gave on-the-spot guidance to the creation of revolutionary operas.

In the late 1960s and the early 1970s he set alight the beacon of a revolution in literature and art and suggested elevating cinema, music, dance, fine art and other forms of literature and art to a new higher plane and energetically guided it.

At that time he ensured that "The Sea of Blood", "A Flower Girl" and "The Fate of Self-defence Corps Man" which had been created and put on the stage during the

anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle in the 1930s were represented to completion in a new operatic form.

In Korea it is called a Pibada-style revolutionary opera.

In the days of a revolution in opera the opera troupes of Korea under his scrupulous guidance produced and put on the stage and "Song of Mt. Kumgang" along with the above-said operas. (They are called 5 revolutionary operas)

In the days of creation of those five revolutionary operas Leader **Kim Jong Il** came out to the spot as a staff member.

He gave a meticulous guidance to acting, stage art, the use of stage properties and other matters.

He also listened to all of the hundreds of songs of the operas, finding the way of revision and completing them perfectly.

Such examples are as endless.

Through it we can know how much he loves music, how well he versed in music and how much importance he attaches to music.

I wondered what kind of music the great man, the lover of music was fond of.

I studied materials with great curiosity.

Leader **Kim Jong Il** likes musical pieces with deep philosophical contents.

The philosophy of music is guaranteed by philosophical words.

Leader **Kim Jong Il** taught that the words of song should carry weight, be suggestive and have an ever-deepening meaning.

There are a large number of songs he praised highly. Among them are "Song of Comradeship", "I Will Become a Flower Heralding Spring", "Pyongyang Is Best" and "The Blue Sky over My Country".

Those songs truly reflect an ardent love for the country and people and utmost devotion.

It is natural that such good words should produce good music.

Leader **Kim Jong Il** said: Famous music is, literally, a renowned music, a well-composed music.

You should not try to find the criterion of a well-composed music only in "logicality of form" or "purity of art", or temporary popularity.

The essence of a famous music should be defined proceeding from the sense of beauty and demand of independent man and the role in his creative activity.

If you say certain music is better as you hear longer and impressive, it means that it expresses the ideological sentiment of man to suit the demand of man and his sense of beauty.

From this, Leader **Kim Jong Il** is opposed to a pure "music", in other words, a music which has no philosophy and does not reflect the independent demand of man and his sense of beauty.

Leader **Kim Jong Il** loves national music more than any other music.

In the past some people said music has not the frontier and so music should be something universal transcending nation and state.

Leader **Kim Jong Il** branded it as a reactionary sophistry of the bourgeoisie calling for globalism.

Of course, there can be commonness in music between nations.

But it does not mean that there is not a border in music between countries and nations.

Musical language is a common thing, but in dealing with it there are reflected the feelings of life and taste of every nation and so there is a border between them.

In the long run, there can not be a universal music.

Every nation has its own national music.

Leader **Kim Jong Il** considers Korean national music to be more elegant and delicate than western music.

His favorite pieces of national music are portraying in a unique musical language the wisdom and courage and sentiment and emotion of the Korean nation who has a long history of emergence and development.

How can I describe the great man's world of music on some sheets of manuscripts?

Here I'd like to describe some problems I witnessed and experienced during my not so long a stay in Korea to

talk about the great man- Leader **Kim Jong Il**'s world of music.

(b) A famous work "On the art of music"

"On the art of music" is one of the many documents written by Leader **Kim Jong Il** personally.

The work published on July 17, 1991 described in detail all problems ranging from the essence and role of music to the practice of creation.

Reading the work, I was convinced that it is an immortal masterpiece of a great musician and asked my guide about it.

It was a work of Leader **Kim Jong Il**.

Now I will introduce the contents of the book.

"1. Juche music

- 1) The Juche era requires a new type of music
- 2) Juche is the life and soul of our music.
- 3) Revolution needs famous music
- 4) Music should be popularized

2. Composition

- 1) Music is the art of melody
- (1) Melody is fundamental to music.

- (2) Melody should be beautiful and soft
- (3) Distinctive melody is the key to musical
Portrayal
- 2) Stanzaic song is the main form of popular
music
- 3) The main thing in the composition of musical
instruments is the combination of
national and western instruments
- 4) Arrangement is a creation
 - (1) Arrangement adds to musical Description
 - (2) Melody-based arrangement is our style
 - (3) Arrangement should made by a good plan
 - (4) Components of music should be dealt with
properly
 - (5)Arrangement for accompaniment should be
made well
- 5) Music should be created in diversified genres
and forms
 - (1) Music should be diversified
 - (2) Efforts should be put into the creation of vocal
music

(3) Instrumental music of our style should be created

(4) "Pibada"-type opera should be developed further

3. Musical performance

1) Performance is the art of creation

2) Performance should properly embody national emotion and modern aesthetic sense

3) Performance should be individualized

4) Performance should be done with passion

5) Performer should become the master of creation

6) Conductor is commander of an orchestra 4.

2. Training of reserve musicians

1)The art of music is developed by its reserves

2)Reserve artists of music should be trained in a scientific and systematic manner "

As we see in the framework of the famous work, Leader **Kim Jong Il** in his work defined ours as the era of independence, the era of Juche and explained what kind of music is required in the Juche era whose main

task is to materialize the cause of human independence and where the vitality of music is.

He also clarified the necessity of famous music in connection with the concrete reality of revolutionary practice and provided a valuable guiding principle that the way of development of music lies in the popularization of music.

Regarding the main property of music as melody, he illuminated a fundamental way to find a distinctive, soft and beautiful melody.

He also provided a new guiding principle for the composition of musical instruments and gave clear answers to the principled and practical problems arising in the arrangement of music. The famous work "On the art of music" is an encyclopedia of music which clearly illuminated the feature of music to be created by humankind at present and in the future.

It also holds a special place in the treasure house of human culture.

I wrote this article mostly based on the famous work.

It is because any other theoretical work on music in the world can not be equal to the work of Leader **Kim Jong Il**.

Beginning to read the work, I thought that the work would have associated music with socio-political problems. Going deeper, however, I could not but marvel at his unusual musical world and knowledge.

Allow me to tell you my readers, an anecdote showing his extraordinary musical sensibility. One day the Korean Film Studio made a documentary of President **Kim Il Sung**'s visit to Europe.

In the film President **Kim Il Sung** laid a wreath at the tomb of unknown soldiers in a country amid the playing of music of another country. Noting the fact, Leader **Kim Jong Il** said to officials that the music is titled "Dream" composed by a German composer Schumann and it is not an elegy, but a lullaby.

Even experts had tried to use a lullaby instead of an elegy. Referring to Leader **Kim Jong Il**'s talent, President **Kim Il Sung** said that Leader **Kim Jong Il** is particularly fond of music and so world-level experts of

music lower their heads before his musical attainments and wisdom.

Just that talented musical wisdom produced the world famous work "On the art of music".

Today the work is published and disseminated in many countries of the world.

(b) Songun music

While staying in Pyongyang, I was told about a political essay of the daily "Rodong Sinmun", organ of the CC of the Workers' Party of Korea.

If I am not mistaken, the political essay was titled "Revolutionary army song, set fire on the hearts".

The author is said to have written it, hearing songs of the famous merited chorus of the Korean People's Army (Later merited state chorus).

Still I remember some of its contents.

In the political essay the author defined the merited chorus as the first line field army of the Supreme Command in the war without a gun shot to defend a red flag.

He also praised its songs as a powerful gun shot shaking the earth and sky and a bombshell of ideology, targeting the heart of the enemy.

He added that now is the time of ideological warfare and musical warfare to overpower the enemy with songs and break through trials and adversity with songs.

The essay wrote among others:

"Song is a language of heart.

Incomparably great is the strength of music which comes out of the heart and flows into the heart.

With a song one can teach the truth one can not teach with hundreds of books.

One can move the world not with a gun report, but with a song.

A noble world of music-based politics can be unfolded only by a great man who has a great idea and philosophy and a firm confidence and grit and knows love and hatred and tears and laughter.

All people can not love music in its true sense.

Music is a feeling of the purest and warmest man.

Only the men of justice and passion who burn their hearts with a solemn and noble world of revolution can understand and love music in a true sense."

The contents of the words are too deep, warm and true to regard them as remarks of an author.

Through my experience I could understand what made the ordinary author tell his warm and genuine feelings.

The Korean people call the contemporary era Songun era.

It is because Leader **Kim Jong Il** is tiding over all challenges of history with his Songun politics and leading the revolution to victory.

Leader **Kim Jong Il** unfolded Songun politics in 1960, while giving on-site guidance to units of the Korean People's Army.

Songun politics is a unique mode of politics which regards military affairs as the first affairs of the state and channels strength into strengthening military force and, at the same time, expediting the revolution and

construction with the army as the main force of the revolution.

Penetrating the changing international situation in a scientific manner, Leader **Kim Jong Il** set forth the principle of giving priority to military affairs and announced that the Workers' Party of Korea enforces Songun politics as the main mode of politics.

The features of an era are reflected on literature and arts.

Music can be said to have reflected the Songun idea first.

An example of it is the fact that as the Koreans says, Leader **Kim Jong Il** makes both a "new year address" and a "political speech" with a gun of song.

Because of the importance of arts in accomplishing the Songun revolutionary cause Leader **Kim Jong Il** advanced a unique music-based politics and enhances the mission and role of Juche arts constantly.

It shows that the Songun idea is reflected on music in a concentrated way.

It would be right to say that the music reflecting the Songun idea started from the Korean People's Army.

As the main force of Songun revolution, the army is solid in an ideological and mental view and intensely faithful to the party and the leader and to the country and the people.

Korea calls such a spirit of the army revolutionary soldiers' spirit and the whole society makes an active effort to learn from it.

The revolutionary soldiers' spirit comprises the intense loyalty to the leader, the spirit of guarding the headquarters of revolution resolutely, the spirit of carrying out the order of the leader resolutely, collective heroism in performing the tasks and the spirit of revolutionary optimism. Such a spirit is reflected on the Songun music.

The Korean army and people like to sing such songs as "We Will Defend the Leadership of the Revolution at the Cost of Our Lives" and "Peace Is Guaranteed by Force of Our Arms".

The main part of the Songun music is played by the merited chorus of the Korean People's Army (later, renamed merited state chorus).

The chorus has been developed into a rare chorus in the world under the scrupulous guidance and care of Leader **Kim Jong Il**.

The Koreans often say that their music is as forceful and exciting as a "volley of multiple launch rocket system".

The chorus gives performance at people's army posts, cities and rural areas and their performance arouses marvelous miracles.

Songun music is ringing in all places where the servicemen of the Korean people's army are living.

For his Songun revolutionary leadership Leader **Kim Jong Il** always finds himself among soldiers at posts and watches simple art performance of soldiers and shows utmost loving care to them.

Some years ago he visited a company and saw an art performance of it.

That day a soldier sang before the Supreme Commander "The Blue Sky over My Country", a favorite song of the Korean people.

After listening to the soldier's song in deep emotion, Leader **Kim Jong Il** said the singer sang the solo well and clapped his hands before anybody else.

He also praised the performance of the company soldiers and said in particular, the song of " The Blue Sky over My Country " was sung well and impressively.

Visiting another unit that day, Leader **Kim Jong Il** said again in deep emotion that he had been very excited to hear the song sung by a soldier who took a rifle to defend the country in place of the handle of a tractor.

Afterwards too, returning from another unit Leader **Kim Jong Il** remembered the soldier, saying the soldier not only does military service well with a high civic awareness, but plays a pivotal role in the company art circle.

The song of a soldier with a rifle in his hand at the post was not anything particular, but Leader **Kim Jong Il** found in it the noble spirit of the soldiers who sing and

live with the conviction of victory and optimism without pessimism in any circumstance.

Later, the soldier showed up at TV with the song, deeply impressing the viewers.

Songun music is a music of confidence and victory which does not know vacillation or yielding. A great era produces a great art.

The Korean people are living in a great Songun era.

The Korean people say the Songun era is an era of creation and progress opening a great heyday of the building of a powerful and prosperous great nation under the unfurled banner of Juche and it is a vibrating and heroic era when the whole society is seething with the mettle and militant optimism of the revolutionary army. It is too natural that such an era should require a new art to suit its aspiration, ideal and emotion. There is no place for an art unable to reflect the highly elated atmosphere of the era. Korea is perfectly solving the problem under the guidance of Leader **Kim Jong Il**.

As said above, the contest of serviceman family art circles of the People's Army plays a very important role

in making the culture of the People's Army spread in the whole society.

When I was staying in Korea, there was going on the 9th art festival of serviceman families of the Korean People's Army.

I'd like to continue to talk about the contest of art of servicemen families some more.

The contest which raised its first curtain in 1998 under the suggestion of the Great Leader **Kim Jong Il** has been held every year amid the interest of the whole army and the entire people.

In the course of it there was formed a special sort of art called an art of serviceman families. The birth of serviceman families' art is of great significance.

It is because first, the art reflects the idea and intention of the headquarters of the nation most sensitively and also it was the birth of a second bugler of Songun in warfare to defend socialism and the building of a powerful and prosperous nation.

Of course, the first bugler of Songun is the music of the merited state chorus and other art troupes of the revolutionary army.

The wives of servicemen share the idea and feelings with their husbands at the outposts for national defense.

Not any other voice can be put between the voices of the serviceman families.

It is a valuable result of the music-based politics of Leader **Kim Jong Il**.

Leader **Kim Jong Il** is the peerless statesman of music who took music along with rifle as a powerful weapon for revolutionary victory, braving the trials of history with music, bringing about creation and change with music and consolidating an unbreakable single-minded unity with music.

I felt it anew when I knew the contest of art of the servicemen families of the Korean People's Army.

Leader **Kim Jong Il** leads the art of serviceman families to become an ideological bugler contributing to the Korean revolution and a model of revolutionary literature and art in the Songun era.

Though he is always busy giving guidance to the party, the state and the army and the economic construction, he saw performances on over 30 occasions from the first performance.

Pressed for time, he dozes in a running car or takes a rice ball for a meal, but sees the performance of art of the serviceman families.

It shows how highly he appreciates the art performance.

What is important in Leader **Kim Jong Il**'s guidance for the art of serviceman families is that he made the songs sung by serviceman families become not an art for art, but an art linked closely with the real life of soldiers and heightening their fighting spirit and a school to further train the spirit of serviceman families in the course of art creation.

I have already told an exciting story that happened during a contest of art of serviceman families. I plan to make a collection of anecdotes on the great man Leader **Kim Jong Il** on the basis of the fact I have witnessed, heard and experienced in Korea.

So, today I do not take more examples.

In Korea soldiers' culture is created and generalized in the whole society.

Some people who have not correct understanding may think that soldiers' culture is an art with gun report and powder smoke smell.

The soldiers' culture of Korea can be said to be the most progressive and guiding culture.

Soldiers' culture has a very great vitality and attraction because it infuses creative passion and optimism for the future in the minds of people and reflects the lively reality.

In other words, soldiers' culture is firmly embodying the Songun idea of Korea in art.

Songun culture, a new culture in the new era is purifying the spirit of people.

Those who did not visit Korea cannot even imagine it.

(c) Korean music as seen by the world

I'd like to ask once again.

Is Korea a tightly closed country or a dangerous country as western media say?

If their remark is true, the international society should not know Korean music, nor should Koreans know the music and art of the world.

In Pyongyang I happened to see a Spanish figure.

Witnessing the reality of Korea he was fascinated by the great personality of Leader **Kim Jong Il**.

Now he is conducting the activities to give wide publicity to Korea through internet by his own decision. With a great interest in Korean music he learned many Korean songs.

Now tens of million netizens are hearing Korean songs on internet.

Everybody who listened to Korean music is said to be attracted by the lively, forceful, delicate and beautiful melody of Korean music.

It proves the vitality of Korean music.

Here is a story of it.

Every year an International Art Festival is held in Pyongyang in April.

The 26 April Spring Friendship Art festival took place in 2009.

The festival which has been held annually since 1982 attracts many famous art troupes and artists of the world.

There were many artists of the United States, Britain, Spain, Italy, France, Australia, Japan and some other countries which speak ill of Korea. What kind of songs are they singing in Pyongyang in April, a beautiful season?

They sing of independence, peace and friendship.

For nearly 10 days the participants in the festival have shown their musical talents.

The aspects of music and song are quite diversified.

The repertoire includes classical and national music of their countries, masterpieces of Beethoven, Tschaikovsky and other world-famous musicians of the world and present day musical pieces and songs.

Without any limitation or restriction the participants sing the songs they want and perform their favorite music.

Koreans send unstinted praise to their artistic talents and creative passion.

In particular, festival participants sing Korean songs.

Artists from the West and other areas sing Korean songs!

Korean songs are sound, noble, beautiful and bright. In a word, they attract world people. Korean songs sing of the sound mode of thinking of human beings and their beautiful life and give people the delight of life and optimism for the future.

As far as I now, famous art troops of Russia visit Korea every year and give performances in Pyongyang and local areas, always applauded loudly.

In 2008 the world famous New York Symphony Orchestra gave performance in Pyongyang, focusing the attention of the world.

After the performance the members of the orchestra regretted that they had been ignorant of the elegant and beautiful music of Korea and the Korean people who love and value music more than anybody else. It is not accidental.

The world should have a new viewpoint on Korean music.

It is wrong to think that music has a vacuum without the rock or jazz of "modern fashion" prevalent in the world.

In Korea there is flourishing Korean style music.

Even when they perform foreign musical pieces, the Koreans adopt national form in the arrangement of musical instruments and the ways of performance, thereby creating unique modes. Korea has quite a large number of songs and musical pieces.

Such a country of music is spoken ill of by some of the people and media in the west without fairness.

I hope the human conscience would estimate Korea fairly.

Music of Korea is all the more beautiful as it is associated with the unusual guidance of Leader **Kim Jong Il**.

According to Korean news media, His Excellency **Kim Jong Il** sees performances of the merited State Chorus, soldiers' art circles, national art troops and the

art performance of serviceman families together with soldiers and civilians every month and gives a very scientific and meticulous guidance on that.

He gives concrete guidance on the ideological and artistic features of musical and artistic pieces and even on their ensemble and representation.

The Korean people will proudly greet the day of victory of their cause in the future as in the past with music and song.

-The end-

Conclusion

The June 19 1979 is the great day of my life.

On this day I and my wife Mrs. Subha Laxmi Sakya had the great opportunity to meet personally and direct face to face an interview with the Great Leader President **Kim Il Sung** in Pyongyang which is the great memory in my life. On that occasion we had the great opportunity to receive the gift from the Great Leader President **Kim Il Sung** also.

It is unable to give all the details of our meeting with the Great Leader President **Kim Il Sung** in this small book.

I had visited many countries of the world but there are few countries for me to visit again.

But I would like to visit the DPRK again and again. The Korean people are very lucky to have the Great Leader President **Kim Il Sung** and His Excellency Leader **Kim Jong Il**.

The DPRK is developing very fast under the dynamic and farsighted leadership of His Excellency Leader **Kim Jong Il**.

No doubt, the music and the future of Pyongyang are bright.

I would like to express my thanks to His Excellency Leader **Kim Jong Il**.

I wish a long life, good health and prosperity of His Excellency Leader **Kim Jong Il**.

Long live the friendship between the NEPAL and the DPRK!

Bio-Data of Mr. Manju Ratna Sakya, President of Nepal Journalists Association

Date of Birth: January 1st 1946

Name of Spouse: Mrs. Subha Laxmi Sakya

No. of Children: Chiran Ratna Sakya (Son)

Anju Sakya (Daughter)

Rabindra Man Prajapati (Son-in-law)

No. of Grand Children: Daniel Man Prajapati

(Grandson), Ojaswi Prajapati (Grand daughter)

Education: Master Degree in Commerce (M.Com.)

in 1967 from Tribhuvan University, Nepal

President: Nepal Journalists Association Honorary

Chairman: Nepal Economic and Commerce Research

Center Chief Editor & Publisher: ARPAN Nepali

Weekly Medal & Decorations:

Coronation Medal Gorkha Dashin Bahu (Second)

Subikhyat Trishaktipatta (Second) Third SAARC

Medal "Birendra-Aishwarya Sewa" Medal King

Birendra's 51st Birthday Medal King Birendra's

Silver Jubilee of Accession to the Throne.

Order of the White Rose Knighthood (from the

Government of Finland)

Friendship Medal of the DPRK in Pyongyang
(2007)

Highest Friendship Decoration of the DPRK in
Pyongyang (2008)

Member:

Asian Mass Communication, Research and
Information Center (AMIC), Singapore Press
Foundation of Asia, Manila International Organization
of Journalists, USA ° Society of Professional
Journalists, USA ° International Press Institute (IPI),
Austria ° World Invest News, President Club, Arizona,
USA

° World Constitution and Parliament Association,
Colorado, USA

° Inter American Press Association (IAPA), Miami,
Florida, USA

Life Member: Nepal Council of World Affairs

Honorary Member of the
International Biographical Center
Advisory Council Cambridge, England
Former Member: Press Council of Nepal
Former Senate Member of Tribhuvan
University of Nepal Former Member of

the Royal Press Commission Constituted
by His Majesty the King of Nepal in
1981

Governor: Confederation of Journalists

(International), New Delhi. Registered

Auditor: Sakya & Co. (Registered Auditor of the
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Vice-President:

Nepal-Myanmar Friendship Council Nepal-Korea
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