

# A message from 2050



## Nature produced the beautiful sound of the guitar. I want to express the irreplaceable sounds and notes with a sense of innocence.

What melodies does the guitar bring to mind? One of the wonderful things about the guitar is that it is used in a wide range of music, such as jazz, folk, flamenco and more.

What I have been most familiar with since my childhood is classical guitar. It is unfortunate, however, that the great masters composed fewer pieces for guitar than for piano or violin. On the other hand, perhaps it was this focus on other instruments from the classical composers that has allowed a greater exploration of other genres such as jazz and pop with the guitar.

I have had the pleasure of performing a great number of beautiful pieces composed by many talented artists, and when I play, I strive to bring to life the feeling the composer hoped to express in the piece. I devote time to considering how I should interpret the piece, being mindful of the tempos, contrasts and themes of the score. I also research the life of the composer, and with their image in mind, I guess I ponder: How can I do justice to this amazing piece in a simple format? How do I communicate the composer's emotions through the guitar?

I will be around 70 in 2050, and it's my hope to still be playing the guitar at that time. In classical music, players are said to fully mature only after reaching their 40s or 50s. Maybe this explains why I am so attached to what has been nurtured gradually and will not fade away over time, lasting quality such as Kabuki, wine and other beautiful

things that improve with age. It's nice to imagine that my music may be enjoyed by someone, somewhere, a few decades from now.

In order to realize such a dream, we must be concerned about the earth's natural environment. In a good environment, we can enjoy music, and it is because our world is filled with forests that we are blessed with the wonderful sound of the guitar. Acoustic guitars are hand-made from wood, and they require a great deal of time and skill to produce. The sound of the guitar is produced from nature. Perhaps that is why I have continued playing for such a long time. The acoustic guitar expresses a wide range of sound from just a small wooden box with strings, but it requires the concentration of both player and audience — everyone must listen carefully.

These days, we seem to have so few opportunities to listen carefully. Nonetheless, our ears are wonderfully sensitive to sound, and it's when you listen carefully to something in silence that you find you can hear them — sounds you couldn't hear before. I believe it is important to not forget this sensitivity, and not just when it comes to music, either.

Music transcends borders, and in the future I hope to continue expressing a variety of thoughts and feelings to people around the world through the unique and delicate sounds of the guitar.

(From an interview)

### Kaori Muraji

Guitarist. Influenced by her father, Noboru Muraji, she started playing the guitar at the age of three. Her presence was dominant in several competitions from quite early on. In 1993, she gave her debut recital, which was soon followed by the release of her debut CD. In 2003, she signed an exclusive international contract with DECCA, a British record label. Based also in Madrid, Spain, her CD, *Portrait*, featuring a selection of music from a wide range of genres based on the concept of "famous pieces played on the guitar," has been well received.



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