

## **Romania Brasov Philharmonic Orchestra**

**Seikei University, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

### **Review by Capucine Thiebault (Seikei University International Student)**

Last November, I attended a concert by the Romania Brasov Philharmonic Orchestra, directed by Daisuke Soga. It was held at Seikei University, on the occasion of the "Romania exchange project," established to support the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

After a brief speech about the purpose of the event, the conductor, dressed in traditional Romanian clothes, started a presentation about Romania. It introduced essential information about the country such as its flag, its major cities and its history to the public. It turned out to be very instructive for those who did not know much about this country, which was certainly the case for me!

The *Romanian folk dances* by Bella Bartok opened the concert. This set of dances consists of six movements. Béla Bartók traveled through the Hungarian countryside to collect traditional tunes from his country and created a unique work from them. The six movements are played continuously. Thanks to the brilliant and skilled orchestra, the audience could be transported to the landscapes that Bella Bartok wanted to portray. The movements were often cheerful and refreshing, but sometimes also more serious and melancholy. The work may become somewhat less exciting at times, but overall, this piece was very enjoyable due to the fine interpretation.

This was followed by the iconic *Symphony no.5 in C minor* by Beethoven. This almost-mythical work began with the most famous four notes in musical history and immediately created a poignant atmosphere. Indeed, from the very first notes the audience was immediately conquered, amused and happy. The intoxicating tune of the violins, supported by the deep sound of the double basses created sensation of something epic. Likewise, the sudden changes in tempo and dynamics were captivating.

The concert was shorter than expected, as it only lasted two pieces, and this was a bit of a pity, as the audience was ready for more. Still, the whole orchestra, admirably conducted by Soga, delivered a dynamic performance that was completely enjoyable and impressive despite its brevity. Moreover, it gave a brief taste of what a professional orchestra can offer through performing famous works.