



SOKA University

*Suffered, struggled, and fought.  
From there overflowing joy arose.*

# Beethoven and The Ode to Joy

Special exhibition commemorating  
the bicentenary of the premiere of Symphony No. 9

2024 **11.1** FRI. → **12.27** FRI.

**[Venue]** Soka University Global Square 1F Entrance Hall <Free Admission>

**[Opening Hours]** 09:00-18:00 \*Opens at 13:00 on 1 November

**[Organizer]** Soka University <Production by Ikeda Research Institute for Soka Education (IRISE)>

**[Sponsors]** Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany / Hachioji City Board of Education

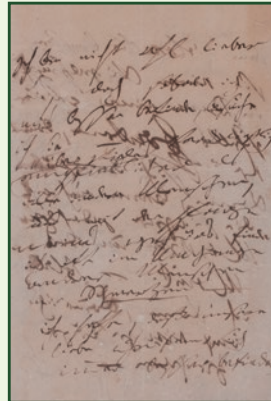
**[Cooperation]** Tokyo Fuji Art Museum / The Min-On Concert Association

# Many items are exhibited for the first time in Japan.

## Valuable historical materials reveal his struggle for creation and the triumph of his spirit.

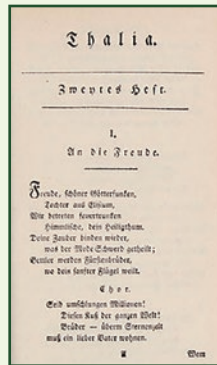
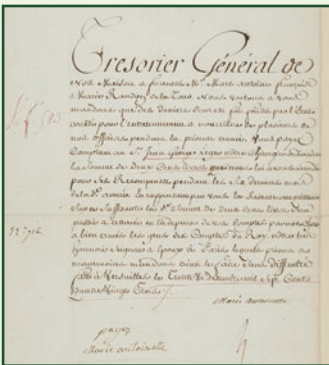
**The first public exhibition of the reprint and translation of Beethoven's autograph letter (September 1815) from the Soka University collection. Here we see the drama of a man, Beethoven, who "obtained joy through suffering."**

Beethoven's autograph letter from the University's collection, his handwritten score [facsimile] from the Min-On Music Museum's collection, and the famous Heiligenstadt Testament [facsimile]—these valuable materials bring to light, with new perspectives, the true picture of the Ninth Symphony as the fruit of his life journey of intellectual quest and spiritual struggle, while presenting his trajectory in three dimensions.



Beethoven's autograph letter [the University's collection] (left) and a facsimile of his handwritten score of the Fifth Symphony "Fate" [Min-On's collection].

**The exhibition showcases a number of rare historical materials that offer insights into the voices of Beethoven's contemporaries who left their mark on world history, the turbulent times that greatly influenced the young Beethoven during his years as a student at the University of Bonn, and his encounter with Schiller's poetry.**



A letter of Marie Antoinette (left) [Tokyo Fuji Art Museum's collection] and a copy of the magazine Thalia in which Schiller's "Ode to Joy" was first published [the University's collection]

Bonn, Germany, where Beethoven was born and spent his youth, is where his talent was first discovered. As an auditing student at the University of Bonn, Beethoven forged connections with professors and fellow members in a reading group, engaging with emerging ideas, philosophies, and influential figures of the time, as well as the spirit of the Revolution. He then fatefully encountered Schiller's poem "Ode to Joy". Through rare letters from key figures of the French Revolution and other materials from the collections of Soka University and Tokyo Fuji Art Museum, this exhibition traces the people and events that profoundly influenced the young Beethoven's personal development.

**"Only labor and devotion to one's mission give life its worth." — Resonating Souls -Beethoven and Daisakulkeda, the founder of the University**

Tokyo was devastated by the war following Japan's defeat. Amidst the struggles of his youth, Ikeda found inspiration in reading about Beethoven and listening to his music until his records wore out. He later wrote extensively on Beethoven, leaving behind many essays and speeches. What did he feel, learn, and seek to impart to future generations from the turbulent life and works of this saint of music? This exhibition explores the spiritual symphony of these two remarkable figures.



The Ninth Symphony being performed at Soka University

Directions to  
Soka  
University

