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Days in the Life of Kiyotake Suenaga

Weekday November 25, 2011 (Friday)

6:30 ~

Woke up, ate breakfast, and read newspapers.

8:00 ~

Saw my eldest daughter off to school and left home for the campus to work.

8:30 ~

Arrived at the lab and copied materials for class work.

9:00 ~

Class work ("Chemistry of biologically active molecules" for juniors). The theme of today's lecture was β -Lactam antibiotics. This theme is close to my specialty, so I enjoyed giving a lecture.

10:40 ~

Time for office work, such as processing of slips.

12:00 ~

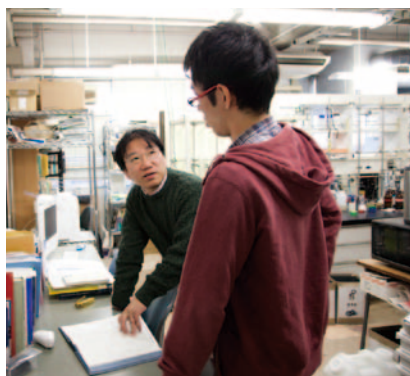
Lunch (box lunch)

12:30 ~

Discussion with students. Then I received a call that something was wrong with the measuring instrument (NMR), but it was soon fixed by making some adjustments.

15:00 ~

Conducted some research, read theses, etc.



18:00 ~

Went home temporarily. On the way, I dropped in at my daughter's music school to pick her up and escorted her back home. Took a bath together with children (two elder ones for today). Then ate dinner.

20:00 ~

Went back to the lab. Had a discussion with students, which might help solve a problem that was hard to deal with.

22:00 ~

Set the NMR for all-night measurement. It's been a long time for me to measure by myself. Anxious about the run of events, I took a look at the state of measurement several times.

0:00 ~

Returned home. Listened to music while enjoying alcohol (beer and sake). Went to bed around 2:00.

Holiday November 27, 2011 (Sunday)

7:00 ~

Got out of bed. After eating breakfast, watched TV. After watching a couple of children's programs (like "Masked Rider"), I enjoyed "Untitled Concert" from 9:00.

10:00 ~

My entire family of five visited the Shibuya district. Since the Tokyo Metropolitan Children's Hall was closed, we switched to "Children's Castle."

13:00 ~

Took late lunch on the way to the NHK Hall.

15:00 ~

Went to NHK Symphony Orchestra's subscription concert (Mahler's Symphony No. 4 and others; conducted by Jun Märkl). Placed two pre-school children under childcare services. There are many chances to listen to Mahler's music recently since the year 2011 falls on the centennial of Mahler's death. Next Sunday, I also plan to enjoy Mahler's Symphony No. 8 at NHK Symphony Orchestra's subscription concert.

18:00 ~

After coming back home, I ate dinner while enjoying alcohol (beer and wine). Chatted with family, watched TV, etc. Later, I took a bath together with my children.

21:00 ~

Watched the movie "The Antarctic" on TV at the request of my children. They are now reading a book which I read in my childhood ("The Story of Sakhalin Dogs – Taro and Jiro" authored by a member of Japan's wintering party in the Antarctic). Went to bed at 23:00.

I encourage attending concert

My hobby is listening to classical music. I took up this hobby soon after I became a university student, which means this pursuit has continued longer than my research career. I attend concerts about 30 times a year, including concerts by the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra of which I am a subscriber, as well as those of the other Tokyo-based orchestras and chamber music performances. In Tokyo and Kanagawa, there are as many as nine professional orchestras. In addition, foreign artists and orchestras continually tour Japan. There are many concert halls offering superb acoustics. Tokyo/Kanagawa may be one of the world's best music locales. Won't you become a concert-goer?

Concerts I recently enjoyed

- Tokyo Symphony Orchestra conducted by Lorin Maazel (at Showa University of Music)

Beethoven and Mahler: Symphony No. 1 (Nov. 12)

This concert attracted attention as it featured the world-famous master as a guest conductor. Highlighting the latter half of the concert was Mahler's symphony, during which the conductor imparted uniquely individualistic expressions. The eight horns arranged in a line side by side were visually entertaining as well.

- Tokyo Symphony Orchestra conducted by Hubert Soudant (at Suntory Hall)

Schönberg: Expectation / Fauré: Requiem (Nov. 19)

Fauré's music for the latter half of the concert pleased me with clear and serene resonance; the string music and female chorus were especially impressive. The soprano's (Maki Mori) transparent voice was wonderful, coupled with the effective stage direction of letting her sing in an elevated section of the hall seats – her voice was nothing less than angelic. I was impressed by the program composition: the performance for first half of the concert was characterized by uneasy and tense emotions, which were compensated for by the healing music in the latter half.



My favorites for 2011

The performance I liked best was Tokyo Symphony Orchestra's concert (conducted by Krzysztof Urbanski): Shostakovich's Symphony No. 10 and others (Jun. 12). The second best was the same orchestra's concert (conducted by Jonathan Nott): Ravel's Daphnis and Chloe (full-length performance) and others (Oct. 7).

My favorite composers

Schumann and Sibelius are my best favorites. I also like Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms and other composers of the Romantic school, Franck and his disciples, Fauré, North European and Russian composers, Bartók, Akira Ifukube (famous for the screen theme music "Godzilla"), and Piazzolla.