

*Toshiyuki Shimada (Portland Symphony Orchestra)
on Conducting:*

When you approach 50, that's a great time to settle into classical music because you understand more. Classical music is about life; the composer puts on the paper their feeling about their life. To understand it, you have to have your own experience. Classical music is about relating with your experience.

I'm not a philosopher, but when you're young, you're just constantly going. The beautiful thing is that when you're older, you have time to think and reflect on things, to compare what happened to you before. Conducting a Beethoven Symphony now is completely different than conducting at 30. You understand a lot more and express better. That's human development.