

August 19, 2011

**Appreciation Concert honoring your Dispatch of the Rescue teams
in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquakes
～ Our ありがとう on the wing of the Music ～**

5 months have passed since the devastating earthquake and tsunami hit East Japan. Many of the victims are still forced to live in restricted situations. Some of them are still frustrated by the slow progress towards recovery.

In the aftermath, Japan received the tremendous help and support of so many countries and organizations. The fact that so many people and governments gave their time and resources so generously to Japan in our time of need is something we will remain forever grateful for. That thought motivated our Committee to invite the representatives of those countries and organizations, and to express our appreciation in the universal language of music. And, we are now glad to announce the concert will be held as detailed below:

Concert Brief

Date: Thursday, September 27th

The performance will begin at 7 p.m. followed by a reception at 8:30 p.m.

Venue: The International House of Japan (Iwasaki Koyata Memorial Hall)

Guests: Representatives of the countries and organizations that dispatched rescue and professional teams.

Performing Artists:

Yasuko Ohtani (Violin) <http://www.yasukoohtani.com/biography.html>

Kazuoki Fujii (Piano) <http://park18.wakwak.com/~kazuokifujii/profile.html>

Yoshihiro Kanno (Music Director) <http://www.ykanno.com/profile.html>

Program: Kreisler, Bach, Elgar, Massenet, Brahms, Gershwin and others

Host: The committee of “Appreciation Concert honoring your Dispatch of the Rescue teams in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake”

Support (Scheduled): The Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Agency for Cultural Affairs/Japan Tourism Agency

Sponsored: The International House of Japan

Promotors / Steering Members

Takao Abe (Mayor of Kawasaki City)

Yasushi Akashi (Chairman of the International House of Japan)

Shinji Fukukawa (Chairman of the Machine Industry Memorial Foundation)

Nobuhiro Iijima (President of Yamazaki Baking Co., Ltd.)

Tadateru Konoe (President of the Japanese Red Cross Society)

Haruo Miki (President of Tamanohada Soap Corporation)

(The list above is alphabetical.)

Motivation:

In a process of the recovery from the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake, we Japanese must not forget the gratitude for the support and aid that we received from the international societies. In the aftermath, we saw on TV and in the newspaper announcing the rescue teams and aids hastily arrived from all over the world. With that vision, more than a few of us were moved to tears. We still have a long way to go to full recovery, but, we would like to take this moment to express our gratitude for the countries, regions and international organizations that sent their rescue and professional teams to places where they were needed most. The thought motivated us to organize the classical concert titled “Our ありがとう on the wing of the Music.”

<About this Concert>

Ms. Yasuko Ohtani, violinist, and one of the concert organizers, stated, “In the course of playing music and supporting the donating activities in devastated areas, all Japan has focused on the recovery. I felt we might pay more attention toward the bonds with the international societies as well as valuing the bonds among nations.”

She also stated “The concert program will be something memorable for the representatives from the countries and the organizations that dispatched the support teams so that it might help strengthen the bonds with Japan. We are going to play the masterpieces by the composers from the countries of the representatives that are invited. We are going to play with all our hearts, in hopes that our gratitude will reach our guests’ hearts.”

Executive Members

Hideya Taida (Former Executive Vice President of the Japan Foundation)
Koji Takebe (Honorary Adviser, International Tourism Strategy Research Institute)
Mitsuhiro Usui (Managing Executive Officer of Development Bank of Japan)
Tetsuo Hiramatsu (Mizuho Corporate Bank, Ltd.)
Shigeya Kaburagi (Councilor of Kawasaki City)
Isao Shindo (Partner, Anderson Mori & Tomotsune Law Firm)
Yuta Ito (Former President of Victor Company of Japan, Limited, Chairman of Frontrunner Inc.)

Your Press Coverage will be highly appreciated.

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