

Press Release

July 18, 2016

9th Annual Circle Wind Concert Supports Earthquake Victims in Kumamoto, Japan with A Junior Drum Team from Kumamoto

New York, NY – July 12, 2016 - - The Circle Wind Concert will celebrate its ninth annual concert on Sunday, September 11th, 2016 at Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Music Center at 129 West 67th Street, New York City. Doors open at 3.30 pm and the concert begins at 4.00 pm. Tickets are \$10.

This year's concert will feature a leading Japanese drum (Wadaiko) group from Fukuoka, Japan "**Wild Samurai (Nobushi)**" and a junior drum team from Kumamoto, Japan "**Hitoyoshi Nebuka**". They will perform with a strong hope for early recovery from devastating earthquakes hit Kumamoto and Oita area last April. More than 150,000 houses were destroyed by the earthquake. As of today, sixty (60) people are dead or missing and about 5,000 are still evacuated. Since the incident occurred, the survivors have been suffering from a series of tremendous number of aftershocks (more than 1,500 times).

The first half of the concert will feature **Ayako Shirasaki Jazz Trio**, an acclaimed jazz players based in New York area as well as **The Bear Necessities**, all-male a cappella group from Brown University. **Japan Choral Harmony "TOMO"** will host the concert again as they did for the last 4 years.

Another thing specially noted, other than the above, is that **Circle Wind Boys & Girls Choir** has been officially formed this summer consisting of 35 Japanese speaking elementary and middle school students living in New York area. This will be their official debut and they will sing a few Japanese songs for the first time on stage collaborating with the jazz trio or JCH "TOMO". The concert emcee (MC) is Kyoko Gasha, Anchor/Senior Producer for Reuters Television and a documentary film director.

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Ticket: \$10.00 (general admission)

Ticket Purchase: www.kaufmanmusiccenter.org or call Merkin Box Office 212-501-3330