

## **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Circle Wind Concert Tributes Ms. Taylor Anderson Who Lost Her Life at Great East Japan Earthquake/Tsunami in Japan**

New York, NY – May 28, 2015 – “The Circle Wind Concert” will celebrate its eighth annual concert on Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Ethical Culture Center Concert Hall at 2 West 64<sup>th</sup> Street, New York City. The concert begins at 7:00pm. Doors open at 6:30pm. Tickets are \$20.

The concert will give a tribute to Ms. Taylor Anderson, an American victim by The Great East Japan Earthquake/Tsunami on March 11, 2011. Ms. Anderson was dispatched to Ishinomaki and Higashi-Matsushima, Japan under The Japan Exchange & Teaching (JET) Program in 2010 and was teaching English to children with preliminary school and junior high school there. She was saying to her friends that she hoped to be a bridge between Japan and the U.S.A. Taylor is believed to have been washed away by the tsunami on the way back home after helping a number of children evacuate to safer places.

A newly formed choir after the disaster, “Never Give up Taylor’s Choir” from Ishinomaki / Higashi-Matsushima will be invited to New York and perform an original musical “100 Ways of Saying Thank You” at the concert with great appreciation to American people for their support to recover from the devastation in 2011. The choir consists of about 50 Ishinomaki and Higashi-Matsushima residents, including several students who were taught English by Taylor. During the concert one of the ex-students will read a letter expressing her sincere appreciation to Taylor’s hard work and big efforts for the improvement of their English conversation.

Also invited to the concert will be the descendants of a samurai delegation (Keicho Embassy), so-called “Japón-san” in Coria del Río, Spain, dispatched in 1613 by Date Masamune, a powerful feudal lord of northeastern Japan and built the city of Sendai in 1600. The ship of the delegation left a port of Ishinomaki in October, 1613 and arrived Coria del Río in October the following year. After the big earthquake and tsunami, several Japón-sans read many “haiku (Japanese traditional poem known to be the world shortest poem)” praying for the recovery of their home town in Japan. Those haiku were presented to the Mayor of Ishinomaki when a group of Japón-san were invited to Ishinomaki in 2013 under the sponsorship of NPO 9.11 Circle Wind Memorial Concert. Lately Japón-san read some haiku dedicating to Ms. Taylor Anderson and some of them will be recited by themselves during the concert.

In the meantime, Mr. Kazusada Sumiyama, a father of one of the Japanese victims wrote a new choral song “Orizuru no Tabi (A Journey of Folded Paper Crane) for the upcoming concert. The song will be played by Japan Choral Harmony “Tomo” as a world premiere at the concert.

Maestro Gregory Singer and his Manhattan Symphonie Orchestra will be back also to perform some tribute songs for Taylor together with Koto soloist Masayo Ishigure and other prominent artists. Japan Choral Harmony “TOMO” will host the concert again as they did for the last 3 years.

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Ticket purchase: (To be announced)

Online ticket purchase: (To be announced)