

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

New York, NY – June 1, 2015 - - “The Circle Wind Concert” will celebrate its eighth annual concert on Friday, September 11th, 2015 at the Ethical Culture Center Concert Hall at 2 West 64th Street, New York City. Doors open at 6.30 pm. and the concert begins at 7.00 pm. Tickets are \$20.

The concert will give tribute to Ms. Taylor Anderson, an American victim of the The Great East Japan Earthquake/Tsunami on March 11, 2011. Ms. Anderson was dispatched to Ishinomaki, Japan under The Japan Exchange & Teaching (JET) Program in 2008 and was teaching English to children at the preliminary, elementary and junior high school level there. She had told her friends that she hoped to be a bridge between Japan and the U.S.A. Taylor was washed away by the tsunami on the way back home after helping her 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 great 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. The embassy was 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 at 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.

For the past few years, representatives of September 11th Families Association have visited devastated areas of 3.11 earthquake/tsunami in Japan (They will be in Fukushima and Miyagi during 7/24 – 8/2 this year). Some pictures of their visits that show the exchanging of friendships among them will be shared with the audience during the concert.

In the meantime, Mr. Kazusada Sumiyama, a father of one of the 9.11 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. As usual, Mr. & Mrs. Sumiyama will attend the concert along with some US and Japanese families of 9.11 victims.

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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