

East Japan Disaster Relief Projects Report

April 2013



At Ishinomaki Elementary School.



At Ishinomaki Yamashirocho Church.



At Ishinomaki Eiko Kindergarten

Total Domestic Giving

(through February 18, 2013)

¥ 488,270,543

Donations can be sent to our account at Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation (SMBC) (SWIFT:SMBC JP JT) Takadanobaba Branch(273) 2471703, for US dollars 3291280, for other currencies

Heartwarming Concert by Members of New Japan Philharmonic

~ The Healing Message of Music ~

As mentioned in the previous update, in early January several members from the New Japan Philharmonic Orchestra preformed New Year's concerts in Ishinomaki. The ensemble consisted of pianist Ryuta Suzuki, violinist Sachiko Yamamoto, double bassist Reo Watanabe and bassoonist Shigeyuki Tanaka.

The performances were held on January 10 with the morning concert at Ishinomaki Eiko Kindergarten (Minoru Kobuna, principal), the afternoon concert at Ishinomaki Elementary School (Norio Suzuki, principal) and the evening concert was held at Ishinomaki Yamashirocho church (Yuichiro Sekikawa, pastor). The music was truly fantastic. Perhaps most memorable was the Csárdás, a traditional Hungarian folk dance, which was performed at the evening concert by the violinist and double bassist. As soon as the last note came to an end the whole audience erupted into a standing ovation.

While in the car driving to the concert Mr. Suzuki said, "When I am playing piano at this kind of performance, the question of just how much healing of the heart of those who have been so wounded by the disaster and its aftermath can actually take place pops into my mind." However, at the moment when I saw with my own eyes the enthusiastic standing ovation of audience, I was convinced that the music was able to communicate its message into the hearts of the people. What crystalized for me was that the performers' message that they were expressing in their music was able give the listeners relief from the pains and release from their anxieties.

Although on that day strong frigid winds were blowing in from the Ishinomaki coastline and standing outside was nearly unbearable, the warmth inside the hearts of the performers from the New Japan Philharmonic filled the auditoriums and embraced the listeners.

(Makoto Iijima, UCCJ East Japan Disaster Relief Projects Director)