

Greetings

It is so wonderful of you all to come here tonight. It is indeed a special night that we can introduce you to this song of Requiem: Chinkon no Uta.

This song was created by the Retired Principal of Iwate Prefecture Public School, where the great Eastern Japan Earthquake and Tsunami hit in March, 2011. It tells the story of the sadness of the people who lost their mothers, fathers, families and children. It moans for their loss and encourages the children who survived to have strength and hope to live for their future. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W6aqk3aZaZo>

We have six guests from Japan here tonight. They introduced this music to us. They are from all over Japan, but they are all connected with this music.

Let me introduce them. **Mrs. Chieko Takadate, Mr. Yasuo Hori, Mr. Kenichiro Sakaguchi, Mrs. Fumiko Ito, Mrs. Kimie Migihara and Mrs. Kimiko Matsuoka.**

Mrs. Takadate is a retired High school teacher from Iwate. When the hideous Tsunami hit the area, she wanted to do something for her students. So she established the **Toni School Hope Foundation** on her own. Then, **Mr. Hori** from Gunma Prefecture joined in. **Mr.Hori** is the member of **World Esperanto Language**. Unfortunately when this song was created, **another professionally-made requiem-like song was spreading all over Japan at that time. Therefore, Mrs. Takadate** asked **Mr.Hori** to introduce this requiem to the **World Esperanto Language**.

So, it went to Esperanto speaking people around the world, and then into the cyber world. So the **Toni Hope Foundation** set a goal to have 10 thousand people to sing this song. But now, it has gone far over 10 thousand.

Mr. Hori also has published various books and poems about the Tsunami and its effects. **Mrs. Migihara** is also a member of **World Esperanto Language**. **Mrs. Ito** and **Mrs. Matsuoka** are zealous supporters of the Toni Hope Foundation. **Mr. Sakaguchi** is from Okayama, in the western part of Japan.

Mr. Sakaguchi is the director of **NHK midnight radio broadcasting**. He interviewed both **Mrs Takadate** and **Mr. Hori**. He was very impressed with their work and he too is now deeply involved in introducing the Requiem.

Last year, while I was visiting Kyoto, Japan, I met **Mrs. Takadate** and **Mr. Sakaguchi** and I too was touched by their enthusiasm to spread the Requiem to everyone.

The song has been sung by various people all over the world. But finally, last year in 2016, the orchestral version made its debut. Our guests wanted to introduce this orchestra music to many more people as well. So our chorus group decided to play the music and sing.

We started to look for musicians, but it was difficult. Then, by the grace of God, we received an offer from this church's music director, **Mrs. Kotoe Shimojo**. She told us that her church musician and choir members would help the cause.

I would like to thank Mrs. Shimojo, the church choir people, and Pastor Greig Hall who offered us the use of this beautiful church for this occasion. Thank you so very much.

And I happily would like to announce you that

We are the first ones in the world to play this brand new orchestral version with our chorus tonight.

Please enjoy the Requiem: "Chinkon-no-Uta" with your prayers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4jFcF3CS0o>

Thank you,



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