

Call for Applications

Wind from the Homeland Concert

—For the Return of Japanese Citizens Abducted by North Korea—

Presented by: Headquarters for the Abduction Issue, Government of Japan, Ministry of Justice

Supported by: Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (Tentative),
Japan Choral Association

*Abducted Japanese citizens are still in North Korea, wishing to return home,
And their families are here in Japan, waiting for their return.
The harmony raised in sympathy for this reality now echoes to reach
everyone around the world.*

Schedule:

June 15 (Fri.): Applications accepted

October 12 (Fri.): Application deadline (If we receive more applications than expected, we will hold a screening session and announce the selected groups on a later day.)

Late October –mid-December: Event preview on the website

December 22 (Sat.): Concert (The concert program will be announced on the organizer's website and other media by the day we start taking seat reservations, scheduled in November.)

Venue: Iino Hall (2-1-1 Uchisaiwaicho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo)

Participation fee: No fee

Qualification: Choral groups with 8 to 40 members that are available to perform in the concert (Any type of choral group will be welcomed, from professional choirs to amateur groups from local communities.)

Planned number of participants: About ten groups (If we receive more applications than planned, we will hold a screening session.)

Performance: Each group will perform the songs of its own choosing and songs selected to be sung by all participants. For details on how to choose songs to perform, please refer to the "Points to note for choosing songs" in the Application Guidelines.

Messages from the abductees' families

● Mr. Shigeo Iizuka (Representative of the Abductees' Families)



The families of the abductees, as well as all of the Japanese people, have long desired a quick resolution to the abduction issue. We must not allow this issue to be forgotten. Songs enter the hearts of those who listen to them and heal the soul. I hope that by singing and listening to songs in this concert, all of us will reach a common ground on this issue, and work together to achieve its resolution.

● Mr. Shigeru Yokota and Mrs. Sakie Yokota (Family members of an abductee)



Most of the abducted Japanese citizens have been separated from their homes for about 35 years. They and their families are longing for their return without further delay. The government has planned a concert to raise awareness about the abduction issue. We hope that many people will participate.

Messages from the organizer

● Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda



The abduction issue is a matter of grave concern that threatens the national sovereignty of Japan and the lives and safety of Japanese citizens. It is also a serious human rights issue shared by the international community as a whole. I hope that this concert will be a strong step forward toward a quick resolution to this issue. Let us join our voices and lift the spirits of the abductees and their families.

● Minister for the Abduction Issue Jin Matsubara



With a strong resolution never to let the abduction issue be forgotten, we have decided to hold a gathering to send our messages to the world through choral music, one of the cultural activities popular among the Japanese people. In joining together, our power is stronger. I hope that many people will participate in this event.

Where to apply and call:

Headquarters for the Abduction Issue, Cabinet Secretariat

1-6-1 Nagatacho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8968

Tel: +81-3-3581-7049 / Fax: +81-3-3581-6011 / E-Mail: ej.rachi@cas.go.jp

For details, please refer to the Application Guidelines on the organizer's website (<http://www.rachi.go.jp/en/>).