

Letter From

NEW YORKERS

Anisong

World Matsuri

Justin Tedaldi

In recent years, New York has hosted concerts ranging from Japanese rock to symphonic game music at world-renowned venues like Madison Square Garden and Carnegie Hall. Still, the chances of a full-blown anime concert featuring a variety of the original theme song vocalists seemed remote at best.

Until now. Coming to the historic Hammerstein Ballroom on November 16-17 and running concurrently with the second annual Anime NYC convention at the Jacob Javits Center, the Anisong World Matsuri concert will make its New York debut after acclaimed performances in Los Angeles, Washington, D.C. and Shanghai.

The show will be open to anime fans and music lovers worldwide, with no Anime NYC admission required to attend. Special VIP ticket options allow fans to meet the performers at Anime NYC, where multiple on-stage Q&As and autograph sessions will be held with the concert's artists.

According to a press release, Anisong World Matsuri brings together the most popular Japanese singers whose songs span the most popular contemporary anime. High-profile acts include Hironobu Kageyama, the voice behind "Dragon Ball Z"'s "Cha-La Head-Cha-La"; Hiroshi Kitadani ("We Are!" from "One Piece"); TRUE ("Mobile Suit Gundam: Iron-Blooded Orphans"); and Luna Haruna ("Sword Art Online," "Fate/Zero," "Monogatari").

Closing the event is Morning Musume, one of the biggest Japanese girl groups of all time. Celebrating their 20th anniversary this year, they will appear with their current 12-member lineup to mark the final overseas performance of Haruna Iikubo, who will graduate from the group in December at Tokyo's Nippon Budokan.

"It's our second time performing in New York. This time we will perform at Anisong World Matsuri with the legendary artist Hironobu Kageyama," the group announced in a special message video posted online. "We are looking forward to it so much!"

For more information and tickets, visit www.anisongmatsuri.com and www.animenyc.com.
(Justin has written about Japanese arts and entertainment since 2005. For more of his stories, visit <http://ljetaany.org/magazine>.)



THE JAPAN VOICE

COOL JAPAN from New Yorkers' Viewpoints



Shoshi Tatekawa

Solo Rakugo Performance

Rakugo performer Shoshi Tatekawa held a solo performance at the Mt. Fuji Japanese Steakhouse in Hillburn, N.Y. for the second time since last May. He started off the performance with his personal immigration experience at the airport and transitioned into an episode about his name and his mentor Danshi Tatekawa. Then he drew the audience into the world of rakugo with a modern version of "Jugemu," a very famous staple and classical rakugo story. He followed that with another story about his mentor and fascinated the audience with yet another classical rakugo story, "Signboard Pin."

After the intermission, Shoshi showcased another classical human drama, "Cups in a Well." The audience thor-

oughly enjoyed the different stories on the program that returned from last year.

Once the performance ended, the audience enjoyed drinking sake and beer at the sample tasting from Kitaya and feasted on the buffet provided by Mt. Fuji. There was a photo and autograph session with Shoshi Tatekawa, which went on until midnight.

Master Shoshi realized that he needed to pick the topics of the show carefully, because there were parts in the story where people from Japan would find it humorous but not people in New York. He said, "If the audience enjoyed my show tonight, I would like to come back again next year." *(Shigeru Hisamatsu/Translated by Tomoko Isshiki)*

Free Concert

Performance in

Repayment

of the Rescue

Friendship Between

Japan and Turkey

November 29

at Carnegie Hall

On September 16, 1890, war-ship Ertuğrul of the Ottoman Empire (present-day Turkey) sank off the coast of Kushimoto-cho in Wakayama Prefecture. Residents from that town rescued 69 crew members on the ship. People in Turkey never forgot what the Japanese did for them.

After about 90 years since that incident, the Iran-Iraq War broke out. It was right after the Pahlavi regime collapsed in Iran because of the fundamentalist revolution caused by Ruholla Khomeini. Back then, the United States supported Iraq and stood against Iran.

In March 1985, Saddam Hussein, who was the President of Iraq at the time, declared that he would indiscriminately attack all the airplanes flying in Iran's territory after a grace period of 48 hours. Foreigners in Iran rushed to get to Tehran airport for evacuation. While every country was sending rescue flights, Japan was the only country that was unable to send any flights since Japan is not allowed to take any sort of military action. The Japanese who were staying in Iran had no way to escape and seemed to



Ibrahim Yazici, President of the Turkish American Arts Society of New York (left) and Seiji Mukaiyama (right)

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be literally "left alone."

As the time limit approached, one aircraft came to the airport. The one which came through the flames of war to rescue the Japanese who had fallen in the depth of despair was none other than the Turkish plane. The code among the Turkish pilots was, "Do not forget what Japan did for Turkey at the time of the Ertuğrul incident." Just 75 minutes before the indiscriminate attack the plane took off, and all 216

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Japanese from Iraq managed to go back to Japan in one piece.

Seiji Mukaiyama (72), President of Hainan City Gas Production and Distribution, who is also an amateur musician, was deeply impressed when he heard that story. Afterward, he held a press conference in New York City on July 17 and announced that he would hold a free concert at Carnegie Hall on November 29 to honor the friendship between Japan and Turkey, which is the main theme of this concert. The Wind Circle Boys and Girls Chorus from New York will join this concert. A Nippon Club memorial exhibition will also be held. For more details and to purchase tickets, visit www.nmsinfonietta.org.
(Ryoichi Miura/Translated by Satoshi Sueyoshi)

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