

# KOKORO PUBLIC SYMPOSIUM & CONCERT

## THE HEART OF JAPAN

TUES. MARCH 6 | 7PM-9:30PM

MERKIN CONCERT HALL 129 W67TH ST NYC BTW AMSTERDAM & BROADWAY

## REBUILDING THROUGH SONG: JAPAN'S RESPONSE TO THE MARCH 2011 DISASTER

**PART 1** LECTURE BY HAIKU POET MADOKA MAYUZUMI  
"JAPAN'S CULTURE OF SILENCE"

**PART 2** PANEL DISCUSSION WITH JAPAN SCHOLARS  
"CULTURAL DIMENSIONS OF JAPAN'S POST-QUAKE RESPONSE"

**PART 3** CHORAL CONCERT, WORLD PREMIERE OF "SONG FOR FUKUSHIMA"  
MUSIC BY AKIRA SENJU, LYRICS BY MADOKA MAYUZUMI

TICKETS: \$20 [\$10 FOR STUDENTS AND SENIOR CITIZENS WITH ID]  
KAUFMAN-CENTER.ORG OR CALL 212-501-3330

[WWW.TOKYOFUNDATION.ORG/EN/HEART-OF-JAPAN](http://WWW.TOKYOFUNDATION.ORG/EN/HEART-OF-JAPAN)



MADOKA MAYUZUMI



AKIRA SENJU



TOP: THE MEN'S GLEE CLUB OF NY BOTTOM: JAPAN CHORAL HARMONY

CO-SPONSORED BY THE TOKYO FOUNDATION AND THE WEATHERHEAD EAST ASIAN INSTITUTE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, WITH SUPPORT FROM THE DONALD KEENE CENTER OF JAPANESE CULTURE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, THE JAPANESE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF NEW YORK, INC., THE NIPPON CLUB, THE JAPAN CHORAL HARMONY, AND THE MEN'S GLEE CLUB OF NEW YORK

DESIGNED BY *sozo*

## PROGRAM

### Part 1: Lecture by Haiku Poet Madoka Mayuzumi, “Japan’s Culture of Silence”

Mayuzumi, who spent a year in Paris from April 2010 to March 2011 as a Japan Cultural Envoy on a program sponsored by Japan’s Agency for Cultural Affairs, will speak about haiku poetry and its “focused ambiguity,” “aesthetics of words unspoken,” “freedom through form,” and “oneness with nature.” She will also introduce poems composed by the survivors of the March 2011 earthquake to elucidate what the haiku form reveals about their perceptions of the unprecedented natural disaster, as well as the values that permeate and underlie Japan’s culture.

### Part 2: Panel Discussion with Japan Scholars, “Cultural Dimensions of Japan’s Post-Quake Response”

A panel discussion with Madoka Mayuzumi and US-based specialists in Japan studies will explore whether Japan’s “culture of silence” is undergoing a change. They will also discuss which aspects of Japanese society are being transformed and what remains the same. Time will also be set aside to answer questions from the floor.

### Part 3: Choral Concert, “Song for Fukushima” (music by Akira Senju, lyrics by Madoka Mayuzumi)

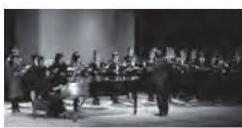
The world premiere of songs for the people of Fukushima—who are unlikely to be able to return home for many years due to the nuclear accident—will be performed. The choral piece is a collaborative benefit project by lyricist Madoka Mayuzumi and composer Akira Senju, who composed the lyrics and music, respectively. The piece will be performed by members of Japan Choral Harmony and the Men’s Glee Club of New York.



**MADOKA MAYUZUMI** (haiku poet) first received acclaim in 1994 when a collection 50 poems won an award from publisher Kadokawa Shoten. Her first book, *B-men no Natsu* (B-side Summer), enjoyed unprecedented sales for a haiku collection. In 2002 Mayuzumi’s fifth haiku-collection, *Kyoto no Koi* (Kyoto Romance), won the Kenkichi Yamamoto Literary Prize. She spearheads a project called Rediscovery and Redefining Japan (with the Tokyo Foundation serving as the secretariat), which aims to revitalize Japan through the rediscovery of local culture, traditions, and history. Official website: <http://madoka575.co.jp>



**AKIRA SENJU** (composer, musical arranger, and producer) graduated from the Department of Composition, Tokyo University of the Arts, after attending Keio University’s Faculty of Engineering and completed a master’s program at the university’s Graduate School of Music at the head of the class. The rights to his composition for the degree, *Eden*, were purchased by the university, and the score is now in the collection of its art museum. Major works include the Four Seasons ambient music for Haneda Airport, operas *Sumida River* and *Man’ yoshu*, and the *Tale of Genji* lyrical symphony. Senju has written many theme songs for TV series, movies, anime, commercials, and documentaries and has won three Japan Academy Awards for best score. Official website: <http://www.akirasenju.com>



**Japan Choral Harmony (JCH)** is a mixed choir consisting of 50 chorus lovers living in the New York area, including some active Japanese professional artists. The choir was originally formed to jointly perform a stage with the HAGI Choir from Sendai, Japan (the nearest city to the epicenter of the huge earthquake last March) at the remarkably successful “Japan-US Chorus Charity Concert for Sendai at Carnegie” held on May 20, 2011. By coincidence, the music director Masaki (Mike) Shirota is originally from Sendai, the pianist Rikako Asanuma is from Iwate and Tomoko Abe, the choir’s president, is from Fukushima. These are the hardest hit areas by the devastating earthquake and tsunami. Also many of its members are somehow related to the Tohoku area (northeast part) of Japan. JCH has actively participated in various concerts or events that support the recovery of Japan. JCH hosted the 4th Annual Circle Wind Concert last September that was to commemorate those who lost lives on 9.11 and performed Sibelius’s “Finlandia” at its finale with Manhattan Symphonie, a New York symphony orchestra, led by Maestro Gregory Singer.



**The Men’s Glee Club of New York** is a men’s four part choral group in the New York metropolitan area composed mainly of about 30 Japanese business men who love to sing. The Club was revived fully in December 2010 at its 11th annual concert after a 10 year long hibernation. It has since been quite active through performances such as in May, 2011 at Carnegie Hall, on the occasion of Joint US Japan Choral Performance for Tohoku Earthquake Victims, and in December 2011, at the 12th annual concert where the audience appreciation was tremendous. Men who would like to sing are always welcome to join. Practices are held on Friday nights. See <http://mgcny.net> for details.