

# Newsletter

MIN-ON CONCERT ASSOCIATION



USA

**October-December**  
"Odyssey—Brass Angels 2008"

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Jordan

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The Jordanian National Folklore Group

## Visitors to Min-On



- A delegation from Slovenian Choir "Carmina Slovenica" (July 9)
- President Rogelio D. Colting of the Philippines' Benguet State University (July 9)
- H.E. Mr. and Mrs. Javier Ponce, Ambassador of the Republic of Ecuador (July 11) — Photo A
- President George C. T. Chen of the National Kaohsiung Marine University of Taiwan (July 18)
- President Yen-po Tang of Taiwan's Chungyu Institute of Technology (July 21)
- Chairman Ying-yeh Liu of Taiwan's Tainan University of Technology (July 25)
- H.E. Mr. and Mrs. Saul Arana Castellon, Ambassador of the Republic of Nicaragua (July 30) — Photo B
- Rector Li Zhongyao of China's Xinjiang University of Finance and Economics (August 8)
- President Jim Garrison of the John Dewey Society (August 14)

- H.E. Mr. and Mrs. Samir Issa Naouri, Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (August 14) — Photo C
- Member of China Children's Artistic Exchange Delegation (August 16)
- Member of "Editus" from Costa Rica and "Guillermo Anderson & Ceibana" from Honduras (August 19)
- H.E. Mr. José Ureña, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic (September 11) — Photo D
- President Serafin Ngohayon of the Philippines' Ifugao State College of Agriculture and Forestry (September 17)
- Mr. Rodrigo Herrera Bravo, Executive Director of Buenos Aires City Tourism Agency of Argentina (September 22)
- Member of "Alfonso Bautista Marimba Ensemble" from Guatemala and "San Blas" from Panama (September 25)
- Member of Korean Dance Group "B-Boy & Ballerina" (September 25)

## Celebrating the 45th Anniversary of the Establishment of Min-On Music Motion Theater World Premiere "Odyssey—Brass Angels 2008"



The Min-On Concert Association is proud to announce the world premier of "Odyssey—Brass Angels 2008," a musical production featuring an all-female cast with brass, percussion and color guard performers.

"Odyssey"—a dynamic and dramatic pageantry of music, movement and skill performed on stage—is unlike anything you have ever seen. This could be described as an entirely new musical genre—that of "music motion theater"—on a par with marching bands, drum corps and winter guards.

The "Brass Angels," a company of highly-talented musicians/dancers/athletes from the United States, create a kaleidoscope of color, sound and movement on stage. They will take you on a "poetic journey through city streets, fast moving trains, vast oceans and open sky," amounting to a spectacular odyssey of the senses.

Drawing on a variety of different styles and moods, the music of "Odyssey" blends woodwind, percussion, an assortment of keyboard and electronic instruments, and vocals, to create panoramic musical landscapes.

The 47-member troupe includes 24 brass and 10 percussion musicians, eight color guard/dancers, and five musician/dancer/athletes. "Odyssey" was created by internationally renowned figures from the worlds of marching band, drum corps and winter guard.



- 50 performances are scheduled in 47 cities throughout Japan..
- Please refer to the following HP for more details: <http://www.min-on.or.jp/>

## Min-On's Hundredth Country of Cultural Exchange The Jordanian National Folklore Group

Since its founding in 1963, the Min-On Concert Association has been promoting cultural exchange with countries around the world. This year, which marks its 45th anniversary, Min-On will be bringing the Jordanian National Folklore Group to Japan to give a series of performances across the country. This will bring to 100 the countries with which Min-On has conducted cultural exchange.

Jordan, which is situated in the very center of the Middle East, is a country that abounds with wonders, such as the magnificent ancient city Petra, which has been recognized as one of the New Seven Wonders of the World, and the ruins of the ancient Roman city Jerash. Each year in Jerash, an international festival is held with the participation of musicians from the countries of the Middle East, the Persian Gulf, and Europe. The venue is a semicircular outdoor amphitheatre.

For its upcoming performances in Japan, the members of the group, dressed in colorful costumes, will perform dances abounding with dynamism. They will introduce traditional music and songs from each region of the country. One of the pieces on the program, "The Bride," dramatizes the story of

a Bedouin marriage. The marriage takes place in and around a tent in the desert. Everyone comes together and all kinds of music and dance is performed—religious songs, traditional songs, love songs, the pole dance, and the sword dance—in a spirit of friendly competition. We hope you will enjoy this medley of representative songs and dances of the Middle East.



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## Min-On Overseas deployment interchange— Exchange between Young Musicians of Japan and the Netherlands!

Min-On has been carrying out exchange with the Princess Christina Concor of the Netherlands since 1998. In July, it sent four talented young Japanese musicians to the Netherlands. Each of the artists—Airi Suzuki (violin), Machiko Syoju (piano), Seiya Ueno (flute), and Sho Asano (Tsugaru samisen)—has won contests in Japan.

In the Netherlands, in addition to appearing in a music festival, they gave a six-performance concert tour and had exchanges with young Dutch musicians. Through these exchanges, people in the Netherlands were impressed by the Japanese performers' technical expertise and skillful application, and the Japanese participants were impressed by the joy and delight that Dutch musicians take in their music.

At each concert venue, the performances were received with shouts of "Bravo!" and standing ovations.



## Viva! Central America Performers from Four Countries Visit the Min-On Culture Center



Min-On recently brought groups of artists from the Central American countries of Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, and Panama to Japan to deliver a series of performances billed as the Central America Music Festival. On August 19, the artists from Costa Rica and Honduras, who were performing in eastern Japan, visited the Min-On Culture Center. The visitors included the five members of Editus from Costa Rica, and the eight members of Guillermo Anderson and Ceibana from Honduras.

Costa Rica and Honduras are the 97th and 98th countries with which Min-On has conducted exchange; so the performances served as an important bridge for exchange with these countries. Edin Solis, the leader of Editus, said that on behalf of Editus and Costa Rica he wanted to express his gratitude for the opportunity to visit Japan. Also, Guillermo Anderson, leader of the group from Honduras, said expressed gratitude to Min-On's

founder for having giving the artists the opportunity to introduce Central American culture to audiences in Japan.

The six members of the Alfonso Bautista Marimba Ensemble from Guatemala and the seven members of San Blas from Panama visited the Min-On Culture Center on September 25. The groups visited Min-On at the completion of their concert tour of western Japan.

In his remarks, Marco Linares, the leader of San Blas, commented: "On this tour, we shared the experience of performing in Japan with musicians from Central American countries. We are honored to have taken part in this cultural exchange, which is the actualization of Min-On's founding principles.

Alfonso Bautista, leader of the group from Guatemala, remarked, "While we are playing but a small role, we have been greatly encouraged by the enthusiastic support we have received from the audience, and have been able to deliver joyful performances."

Festivals featuring joint performances by all four groups were held in Tokyo, Osaka and Nagoya in late September and early October.



## "China-Japan Children's Artistic Exchange" Held at the Min-On Culture Center

On the morning of August 16, the China Children's Artistic Exchange Delegation visited the Min-On Culture Center. To mark the occasion of their visit, an exchange was held with the participation of Soka Gakkai future division representatives. This event, commemorating the Year of Japan-China Youth Friendship Exchange, was held in the Museum Hall.

At the start, Japanese high school students Omichi Maruyama and Kaori Ishizaka gave speeches in Chinese welcoming the delegation members. Ms. Chen Ze Ling, a member of the delegation, delivered greetings. The Fuji Junior High School Choir of Japan performed the song "Jasmine" in Chinese, followed by three songs in Japanese. Members of the Chinese delegation then performed a number of traditional Chinese dances, ballads and songs.

Lastly, Mr. Hu Ke, leader of the Chinese exchange delegation and Deputy Section Chief of Art Service Center, Ministry of Culture of the People's Republic of China delivered remarks praising Min-On's founder SGI President Ikeda. He described the SGI leader as "an old friend of the Chinese people," and as a "pioneer of the normalization of

China-Japan diplomatic relations who has wholeheartedly dedicated himself to promoting friendship exchange between our countries." To mark the occasion, Min-On President Hiroyasu Kobayashi presented Mr. Hu Ke, Ms. Wang Xue Hong and Ms. Jia Hui Xuan, leaders of the delegation, with the Min-On Culture Award.



## Ambassador Miran Skender Joins Min-On in Welcoming Group Carmina Slovenica Choir Visits Min-On Culture Center!



On the afternoon of July 9, the 45-member Carmina Slovenica Women's Choir visited the Min-On Culture Center. Ambassador Miran Skender of the Republic of Slovenia, who arrived at the center prior to

the group, joined Min-On staff in welcoming these "emissaries of song" from Slovenia, who were performing in Japan under the baton of Conductor Karmina Šilec.

Ambassador Skender welcomed the choir in Slovenian. Joy spread across the faces of the choir members, who had been away from home for many weeks, to hear these words in their native tongue.

In his greetings, Min-On President Kobayashi thanked Ambassador Skender for his help in making the tour by Carmina Slovenica possible. "This has been a historic year for exchange between our countries," he added.

Commenting on the successful concert tour, Conductor Šilec said, "Min-On is performing a very important role for society. It is shouldering a vital mission

for world culture." "I am grateful to have had the opportunity to introduce audiences in Japan to the deep history and rich culture of Slovenia through these Min-On concerts," he added.

That evening, Ambassador and Mrs. Skender attended the choir's sold-out Tokyo performance.



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### Min-On Concert Association

Public Relations and Publicity

8, Shinano-machi, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo, 160-8588

**Publisher:** Yukio Yamaguchi **Editors:** Tsuneyoshi Kuchinaka/Maki Horie/Daniel Samos **Photographer:** Yukinori Akaike

Tel: 03-5362-3400 Fax: 03-5362-3401

Website: <http://www.min-on.or.jp>

E-mail: [publicrelations@min-on.or.jp](mailto:publicrelations@min-on.or.jp)