

*People with disabilities play the piano in day-to-day effort.
It should be expansion the circle of its activities to the world.*

The road to Wien ,Austria 2013

The 3rd International Piano Festival by People with Disabilities in Wien

Historical records of I.P.F.D



= UNHEARD NOTES =

=Committee of International Piano Festival by People with Disabilities =

-Former Piano Paralympics

The purpose of I.P.F.D. and it's activities

Put together by pianist Tokio Sakoda in 2001 and based in 16 different locations, the I.P.D (Institute of Piano Teachers & disabled in Japan) while performing all over the country, hosted the 1st International Piano Paralympics in Yokohama 2005, where 94 pianists from 14 countries experienced the joys of playing music while overcoming the difficulties of their disabilities. The organization hosted the 2nd International Piano Festival in Vancouver, Canada four years later in 2009, and is expected to host the 3rd International Piano Festival in Vienna, Austria next year, expanding their network of global support.

In October 2001 at a talk concert held in Muikamachi, Niigata Prefecture, I.P.D organizer Tokio Sakoda made a speech titled "Why shouldn't any disabled person be able to experience the joys of playing the piano?", encouraging young people and music lovers by with disabilities to take a step



forward and discover their talents, and organized venues all over the country to create opportunities for the new musicians. This was the beginning of the I.P.D. With the support of music teachers with piano classrooms nation wide, the organization expanded to operating out of 30 offices in the country, and collaborating with similar organizations in Korea, Taiwan, China, USA, Canada, Germany, Italy, UK, Spain, Poland, Mexico, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia,

Myanmar, Hungary, Costa-Rica, France and Austria..

Global recognition of the I.P.D came when they hosted the 1st International Piano Paralympics in Yokohama in 2005 (hosted by ex prime minister Tsutomu Hata, lower right). The mayor of Yokohama city and members of House Representatives, as well as I.P.D honorary chairman Shigeaki Hinohara(upper left), Chair the board of trustees St.Luke's International Hospital, Tokyo, U.S ambassador to Japan, Howard Baker, and dozens of media personnel attended the event, increasing awareness of the organization both nationally and internationally.

One pianist, who lost normal function of his left hand while studying music in Germany, due to single-hearted dedication and hard work, continued to play with one hand.

The experience brought him to realize his ability to express himself through music even with a physical disability, and he now composes and arranges his own music. His activities have since been recognized worldwide.





*Message from Mr. Tokio Sakoda who is President of
the c. I. P. F. D.*

Do you refrain from playing the piano due to a disability ?
The International Piano Festival (former Piano Paralympics) by People with Disabilities =I.P.F.D is an international piano music festival for pianists who have overcome great challenge.

We are encouraging all pianists with a disability to communicate that challenge themselves to express their musical feeling through the piano and share the enjoyment of making music with the audience.



I shall not be forgotten that Ludwig von Beethoven who became deaf has left us a great inheritance of his music. The career of Pianist Paul Wittgenstein, who had lost his right hand in World War 1, was reborn as the "Pianist of the left hand", and remain as one of greatest pianist in the history of music.

The famous Japanese Koto Player (Koto is a traditional Japanese string instrument). Michio Miyagi , who had a visual disability, is well known for having laid the foundations of this Japanese instrument and has given the roots to Japanese traditional music.

Beautiful and heartfelt music can be produced by a sensitive and keen artist even with a hearing impairment, a pianist with one hand, or a pianist who creates music with just a single finger. We would like to welcome all and establish a world-wide piano music festival filled with new ideas to overcome the impossibilities. Let us say that the possibilities of the human ability are unlimited.

The real purpose is not to compete for superiority but to encourage, appreciate and praise special skills through music and to bring awareness of such achievements to the general public. Through this kind of international exchange we also believe that we can contribute to World Peace.

The Purpose of I.P.D's activities

1. To increase knowledge of the disabilities around us.
2. To learn, encourage the possibilities and exchange information about each disability.
3. To recognize the vast possibilities and to enhance the creative training among those with disabilities.]
4. To search, nurture and to support new talents.
5. To promote Musical Leaders, consolidate talent information, and promote these talents with performance engagements.
6. To enhance each individuality, and learn about different culture through music.
7. To return the benefits of the experiences to society.
8. To support "International Piano Festival by people with Disabilities=former Piano Paralympics" as an opportunity to get together and learn from each other.
9. To open the eyes to the worldwide community and hope for peace.

Emotion, tears of joy, and a hurricane of applause The 1st International Piano Paralympics in Yokohama

"I have experienced the joys of discovering talents hidden in every people with disabilities, and no matter what the physical disability, the imagination, innovation, and devotion displayed by these young people have inspired me to give them a chance to spread their



talents worldwide." says I.P.D organizer Tokio Sakoda. And his dream became a reality with the 1st International Piano Paralympics held in Yokohama in January 2005.

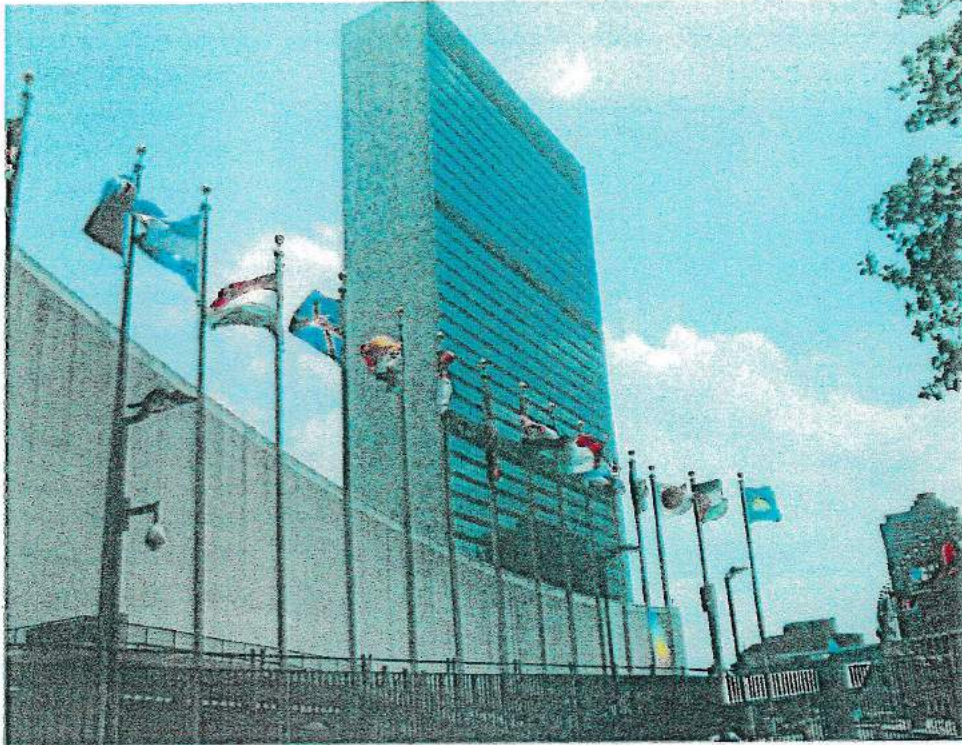
The two day event featured 94 pianists from 14 countries, and it was a full house.

The performers were disabled people with intellectual, physical, visual, and auditory disabilities, and their music, played with every bit of heart and soul, touched the audience, bringing about a raging round of applause. Ex prime minister Tsutomu Hata commented "I pray the efforts of the performers are recognized both nationally and globally".



INVITATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

In 2007, a single official document arrived at the I.P.D from the United Nations Headquarters. In the letter was an invitation addressed to all I.P.D affiliated pianists to perform on December 3rd of that year, a day that will be known as "International Handicap



Day". I.P.D headquarters immediately contacted offices inside and outside the country, calling out to pianists to participate. The event was held in Hammerskjold Hall inside United Nations Headquarters, and featured 17 pianists from 8 countries.

The Japanese

government also sent a solicitation document to the I.P.D in foreign minister Tarou Asou's name, and even hosted a banquet dinner after the concert at the Japanese Consulate in New York.

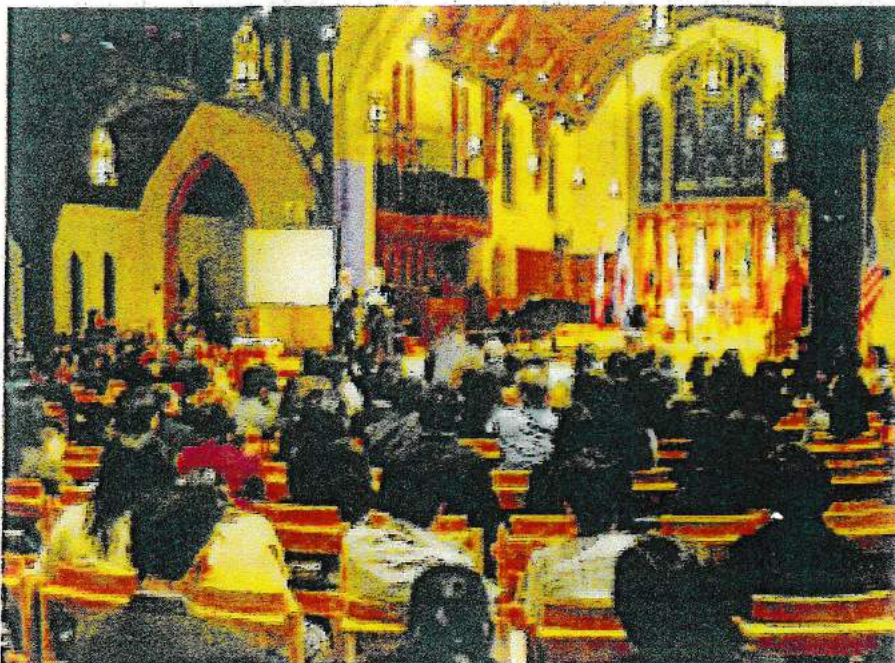
The day after next on December 5th, the pianists were presented with the opportunity to perform in Carnegie Hall, New York's sanctuary of music. The participants had the experience of a lifetime, and each and every one of them enjoyed it to the fullest.



Vancouver, Canada

The 2nd International Piano Festival

Music is a universal language, music is about the heart, not skill. Artists with various disabilities overcome their handicap and continue to practice the piano.



Over 800 members in Japan alone perform in I.P.D music events. Teachers who share their passion for music hold piano classes all over the hopes to reach out to people and expand the circle of support. The performers and the teachers who support them have a mutual wish; to play or have

their students play not only in Japan, but also in countries worldwide. Following the event held in Yokohama four years ago, the I.P.D hosted the 2nd International Piano Festival in Vancouver, Canada from September 30th to October 2nd, 2009. And in preparation for this global event, a charity concert was held in the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo on September 17th, 2009



The festival took place in 3 venues, beginning with the opening ceremony in Christchurch Cathedral, and it's success was aired all over Canada.





International Piano Festival by people with Disabilities, Asia (in Osaka)

Featuring performers from Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Taiwan, China, Myanmar, and Japan. The International Piano Festival by people with Disabilities, Asia was held in Sakai, Osaka from December 5th to December 11th, 2011.

The venue was built in commemoration of the 10th anniversary of the United Nations' International Handicap Day, and is offered by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare as a symbol of peace and the unity of disabled people.

In preparation for the 3rd International Piano Festival in Vienna, Austria 2013

The International Piano Paralympics (Now known as the International Piano Festival) kicked off in Yokohama in January 2005.

Following the 2nd International Piano Festival which was held in Vancouver Canada in 2009, the next event is to be held in Vienna, the music capital of Austria, from November 14th to 17th 2013. In light of the huge success and international recognition of both the first and second events. I.P.D is holding several discussions over the year of the third after careful conversation with Vienna city.



Like congressman Tsutomu Hata, House Representative and Tachiagare Nippon Party chairman Takeo Hiranuma (Lower right) has agreed to participate in the event as a member of the congressman support group.



Vienna State Opera, the heartthrob of music lovers worldwide, and the streetscapes of Vienna, designated world heritage site of music and art.

Unheard Notes

Symbol Title of International Piano Festival

by people with disabilities

The Possibilities of the human ability are unlimited

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