



Omiya Wind Symphony

Omiya, Saitama Prefecture, Japan

The Omiya Wind Symphony (Community Band) was founded in 1993 in Omiya City (re-named to Saitama City), Saitama Prefecture, Japan. Under the direction of Maestro Toshio Akiyama as Music Director, Omiya Wind Symphony has grown to a membership of 85 music lovers of all walks of life residing throughout the Saitama City area. In 2009, Robert W. Smith composed “Sensei’s Ride On the Cherry Blossom Express” to commemorate the 80th birthday of Toshio Akiyama, which was premiered by Omiya Wind Symphony in Japan. In 2002, the Omiya Wind Symphony made its first overseas concert tour to South Korea. The performance in Wonju City in Gangwon Province was received enthusiastically by audiences. A concert tour to San Diego in April 2007 was its first step in the United States of America. At the end of 2008, The Band made a tour to Chia Yi City and Taipei in Taiwan where its performances were warmly received. In 2014, the Omiya Wind Symphony concluded a sister band between the Honolulu Wind Ensemble at the Joint Concert in Saitama City, Japan.

The following is a list of its international exchange concerts:

2002 Korea-Japan Exchange Concert in Wonju City, South Korea, collaborating with Wonju City Appassionata Wind Orchestra (Band Director: Lee Seung Hwa)

2004 Japan-Korea Exchange Concert in Saitama City, Japan to welcome Wonju City Appassionata Wind Orchestra (Band Director: Lee Soung Hwg)

2007 U.S.-Japan Exchange Concert in Carlsbad, California, USA, collaborating with Coastal Communities Concert Band (Band Director: Donald E. Caneva)

2008 Chia Yi International Band Festival in Chia Yi City, Taiwan, collaborating with Chia Yi Wind Orchestra

Taiwan-Japan Exchange Concert in Taipei, Taiwan, collaborating with Taiwan Wind Ensemble (Conductor: Wen-wen Chou)

2010 Japan-Taiwan Exchange Concert in Saitama City, Japan, to welcome Taiwan Wind Ensemble (Conductor: Wen-wen Chou)

2012 U.S.- Japan Exchange Concert in Honolulu City, the State of Hawaii, collaborating with the Honolulu Community Concert Band (Band Director: Les Tanaka)

2014 Japan-U.S. Exchange Concert in Saitama City, Japan, to welcome the Honolulu Wind Ensemble

2015 Japan-Germany Exchange Concert in Saitama City, Japan, to welcome Westfalen Winds e.V. (Conductor: Ulruch Schmidt)

About the Conductor,

Toshio Akiyama

Born in Omiya City, Japan. Toshio Akiyama studied at the Musashino School of Music, the University of Tokyo School of Fine Arts, and the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. He taught for thirty years at the Musashino School of Music and conducted the Sony Concert Band for forty years. He is currently Honorary Music Culture Advisor for Hamamatsu City. He has served as Vice-President of the Kantoh Band Association and the All

Japan Band Association, and on the Board of Director of the World Association for Symphonic Bands and Ensembles. He is an honorary member of the American Bandmasters Association and in 1996 became Honorary President of the Asian Band Directors Association. He is Past-President of the Japanese Band Directors association and has been their Honorary President since 2003. In addition to numerous awards for his contribution to bands including 1992 Midwest Band Clinic International Award, he is also known as a composer and author. He was awarded The Omiya City Cultural Award in 1998, The Music Award of Kan-ichi SHIMOFUSA in 2013, The Order of the Rising Sun in 2014, by the achievements over the years.

