

A Mission To Inspire

Excerpts from SGI President Ikeda's 'Precepts for Music Corps'

- There are no boundaries in religious philosophy. Humankind shares equally the desire for peace and happiness, and religious philosophy is the only means by which this desire can be answered. Likewise, there are no boundaries in the field of music. Music is the flower of culture, a language common to the entire world. It is a thing of beauty sought by all people.

- Recalling the history of humankind, we discover that a race of people or a nation strove for happiness and peace only if motivated by a new, sound philosophy. The practice of a great ideology, like the current of a great river, becomes the high ambition and rhythm of that nation. The same holds true of music. The beauty and energy of music have been the source of a nation's growth.

- Let us develop a mammoth musical movement filled with hope. For the sake of the general public, let us sow the seeds for a great new culture. It is my request that all of you, without uttering a word, will be able to move your listeners to deep emotion. Through your performance, I hope that you will move people to jubilation and inspire them to attain their human revolution.

- To the general public, you are being called upon to reveal the true picture of kosen-rufu, thus helping them recognize correctly the Soka Gakkai. Furthermore, as pioneers, you must contribute to the enhancement of world culture. You must complete the mission of the Music Corps within the organization, inspiring millions of bodhisattvas and giving our fellow members hope and inspiration to overcome their sufferings.

- In conclusion, I would like to say that your spirit should transcend vanity, as well as musical techniques and ability. The sound of the Music Corps should be the rhythm of faith. It must roar with the sound of passion, as if to crush the angry waves of the ocean. I urge that you advance with the confidence that your performances will penetrate the hearts of all people. People in a new era look forward to new talents and music. I sincerely hope that you, with glory and awareness as members of the Music Corps, will rise to this challenge and perform on the world's stage.

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