

New Jersey Music Corps Learns Faith and Music

Members of New Jersey's Music Corps share their experiences and determinations for the group.

- I joined the Music Corps just last year. I was very happy when I joined because everyone was very friendly. From then on I spent time trying to attend most youth division meetings and practices. Though I have only been in the Music Corps for a year, it feels as if I have been in it for a long time. I feel very comfortable when I go to practice and meetings. When I come home from them I feel very happy and renewed. Now I am always eager to attend them. I am glad that I joined the Music Corps.

— *Diana Yoshiko Oeda*

- My vision toward the future is that I see more people joining and becoming active. I also see us encouraging more people who are not Buddhist. I have received many benefits. One thing that I really like is that I have become more interested in music.

— *Andrew Cody*

- I have a lot of faith that we — youth of the future — can all make a difference. I have received a lot of good fortune and benefits in my life participating not only in district meetings but also in Music Corps where I am among [people] my age.

The most important benefit is that I have opened myself to not only understand more at meetings but to share my feelings with others and help others with their problems. My life is now more healthy physically, socially and most of all mentally. I am very happy to share my feelings with you!

— *Susan Moromisato*

- My 1997 determination for New Jersey Music Corps is to create an environment where each member can have fun, make good friends, learn the value of hard work and feel like he or she has accomplished something great. By deepening my faith in the Gohonzon and strengthening my own connection with SGI President Ikeda, I am determined to encourage each member of the Music Corps to do the same.

Finally, I am determined to make the 1st annual 1997 New Jersey Youth Music Festival a total success!

— *Jason Berg*

- My vision for the future of Music Corps is that it will expand and will be run more by the youth rather than adults.

When I chant with faith and determination, I will always get what [I want]. I have faith in all I do. For me, determination plus faith equals success. I have learned to work together [with other people]. I have made more friends and in Music Corps I am learning how to read music.

— *Luz Veloz*

- This practice, through the Music Corps, has helped me meet great people that help one another to strengthen our faith.

Also, being a section leader has helped me in becoming confident in helping the less

experienced players of the section to build their confidence to play out and not be afraid. Through the Music Corps I chose my future career as a music teacher.

My determination for the Music Corps for the 21st century is to have the opportunity to play not only for the metropolitan area, but other places as well.

By doing so, I believe that the members in those places would be encouraged to start their own Music Corps and maybe someday we could all play together.

— *Mai Koyo*

- My vision towards the future of the Music Corps is that it will get bigger, more people will join and there will be more dances with color guards.

I have received a lot of benefits. To name a few, I have learned new dances, learned to play the flute and learned to do gongyo better. I met a lot of new people. Now I have become more open, more happy and I participate more.

— *Michelle Para*

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