

**CONSULATE GENERAL OF JAPAN**

299 PARK AVENUE

NEW YORK, N.Y. 10171

(212) 371-8222

Shinichi Nishimiya  
Ambassador and Consul-General

**MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR SHINICHI NISHIMIYA,  
CONSUL GENERAL OF JAPAN IN NEW YORK**

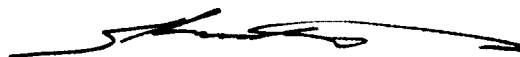
April 7, 2010

It is a great pleasure to extend my congratulations and best wishes to Harmonia Opera Company as it embarks on an exciting performance at the Lavelle School for the Blind in the Bronx that is sure to delight audience and further strengthen the cultural bonds shared by the people of Japan and the United States.

This concert for children and disabled seniors promises to be an unforgettable and enriching experience for audience and performers alike, and I salute the Company for its dedication and service to the community.

During this special year when we are commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Japanese diplomatic mission to the United States in 1860, it seems wonderfully appropriate that Harmonia Opera, a cultural pioneer itself, continues its longstanding mission to bring Japanese and Americans together through music, story, and song. I would especially like to thank Harmonia's gifted founder, Ms. Emiko Iinuma, for all her extraordinary efforts, for which she was recognized with the Japanese Foreign Minister's Award in 2008.

To all the talented performers and everyone in the audience, please accept all my best and please enjoy a wonderful time at the opera.



Shinichi Nishimiya  
Ambassador & Consul General