

Greetings

「As a messenger of world peace」



Dr. Nobutada Iwahashi,
President

The Wakayama Children's Choir, founded in 1958, continually works with the aim of raising children in wholesome environment through the use of song. Singing acts to cultivate friendships, and bring people's hearts together.

I truly hope that these wonderful, music loving children are able to more skillfully express themselves, become more involved members of the future society and world, use the universal language of music to overcome ethnic and cultural divides and further understanding, and bring about peace through their tireless practice and performances both domestically and abroad.



A brief history

Established in 1958.

The choir was founded in 1958 with 32 children. It belonged to NHK (National Broadcasting Company) but was later separated from NHK and is now an independent choir with children from different schools throughout Wakayama City.

There are 3 categories of members according their age :

1. Boys and Girls choir from 7 to 10 years old.
2. Children's choir (equal voice) from 11 to 18 years old.
3. Youth choir (equal voice) from 15 to 18 years old.

The total number of the members is 200.

They rehearse once a week usually on Saturdays. Their annual spring concert is one of the regular cultural events in Wakayama City.

They are invited to various events and festivals on regular basis. They believe that there is no boundary in the musical world and look forward to making more friends through the harmony of music all over the world.

The history of the receiving a prize

1996 All Japan Children's Choir Competition : Grand prize

1996 8th International Youth Choral Competition at Portland (USA) : Grand prize

1998 5th International Choir Competition Riva del Garda (Italy) : Gold medal in Children's category (awarded together with special prize of highest point with contemporary music performance)

2000 First Choir Olympics in Linz (Austria) : Gold medal in Folklore category

2003 35th Tolosa International Choir Competition (Spain) : 2nd place in Children choir category

2005 10th Budapest International Choir Competition (Hungary) : Gold medal in Youth category and Folklore category

2007 28th Halle International Children Choir Festival & Competition (Germany) : 1st place



Profile



Mr. Haruhiko Numamaru,
Conductor

Born in Wakayama City, Japan in 1960. When he was a student of Tottori University, he debuted as an choral conductor of the University's mixed choir. After the experience he aimed to be a conductor in earnest.

In 1993 he given the position of the conductor in the Wakayama Children's Choir.

He successfully made the choir's concert tour to U.S., Russia, Austria, Hungary, Belgium, England, Spain, Germany and China.

He was often invited as a lecturer to choral workshops, and as a judge of choral competitions not only in Japan but also to overseas countries like the "All Poland Chorus Symposium" organized by the Ministry of Culture in Poland.

At the 7th World Chorus Symposium in Kyoto in 2005, he served as the executive director of workshops and seminars. the Wakayama Children's Choir also sang as a model choir while conducted by him at the Symposium. He was selected as a lecturer of All Japan Chorus Workshop in 2006 and a lecturer of All Japan Children's Chorus Festival in 2007.

He commissioned new repertoires to such notable Japanese composers like Ko Matsushita, Takatomi Nobunaga and Sayaka Ishiguro and collaborates with them.

He is presently the conductor of the Wakayama Youth Choir, and A Lecturer at the KOBE College of Music, A member of Japan Choral Directors Association, a director of the Kansai Choral Association, and The vice president of the Wakayama Prefecture Choral Association.



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和歌山児童合唱団

WAKAYAMA CHILDREN'S CHOIR

