

Friendship Concert, Sister Cities Program Brings Japanese Student Musicians to Ann Arbor and Detroit

July 28, 2015

The Toyota City Junior Orchestra (TCJO) will visit Southeastern Michigan this month to participate in two concert performances in Detroit and Ann Arbor. The activity is part of a number of events and activities that recognize and celebrate 55 years of friendship between Detroit and Toyota City.

As part of Detroit's Sister Cities Program, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra (DSO) will welcome a group of students from the TCJO to perform on Orchestra Hall's historic stage alongside students from the DSO Youth Orchestra on Aug. 6, 2015 at 7:30 pm. The performance, which will be webcast live at dso.org/live, is sponsored by Toyota, the City of Detroit, the Japan Business Society of Detroit, and IMRA America, an Aisin-owned company.

Then, on Aug. 8, the musicians, ranging in ages from 10-22 years old, will join the renowned Pioneer High School Symphony Orchestra in a unique Friendship Concert at Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor presented by the Ann Arbor Public Schools Educational Foundation (AAPSEF). The Friendship concert begins at 7:30 pm and is sponsored by Toyota, the Japanese Business Society of Detroit, and IMRA, an active supporter of AAPSEF.

Admission is free to both concerts.

The students, who will stay in dormitories and with host families from Pioneer High School, will have an opportunity to see many local attractions in and around Detroit and Ann Arbor. They are also scheduled to attend a reception hosted by Dr. Kazuyuki Katayama, Counsel General of Japan.

"We are extremely grateful to the DSO, the city of Detroit and the many local business and community organizations that have helped make this trip possible," said Mrs. Akiko Toyoda, delegate leader of the TCJO, and wife of Aisin Seiki Chairman Kanshiro Toyoda.

"Japan and Michigan share a great friendship, one that grows stronger as a result of these types of activities and cultural exchanges," said Adam Wolf of the Consulate General's office.