

Unificationist Bands Celebrate “Gift of the Concert” in New York

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Unificationist youth from both the West and East Coast showcased their musical talent at the first ever Youth Concert for World Peace and Ideal Families on Friday, March 19, 2011 at the Manhattan Center in New York City. Rev. In Jin Moon, president and CEO of the Unification Church, planned and produced the memorial concert at which she told 400 attendees that the night was dedicated to the power of the arts and “the gift of the concert.”



The Junction Band, from New York and New Jersey.

Three youth bands from Los Angeles, Ohio, and “The Junction” young adult group in New York, opened the night with performances of both original and cover songs before the final band, Sonic Cult, put the crowd on their feet dancing to the music. All money raised was donated to the Unification Church fund for earthquake relief in Japan.

Rev. In Jin Moon, who began organizing youth concerts 10 years ago in Japan, spoke to the audience about the importance of dedicating oneself to the arts, and their ability to inspire others through it.

“My father, Rev. Moon, has emphasized to me the importance of living for the sake of others through your art. Those of us who are talented in the arts, who are talented actors, singers, dancers, painters, and so on, all of these people need to realize that they have a chance in their life to express this gift from heaven, to really use this sacred art as a means of inspiring others.” In her speech, she explained that she also wanted to carry out the

vision of her older brother, the late Hyo Jin Moon [1962 – 2008], to “make culture a center of our lives, providing not just beauty and excitement but trying to inspire people to recognize their own divinity and really empower them to be the kind of eternal sons and daughters that we were all meant to be.”



Vince Aparo, lead singer of the Los Angeles Band.

Rev. In Jin Moon has been funding the Youth Concert for World Peace series in Japan for the last 10 years. During these concerts, she has encouraged the Japanese church to use all the money raised at these concerts for the education of second generation Unificationists, encouraging Japanese children to go into the arts. After sharing the great development that has taken place in Japan, she told the crowd: “How incredibly wonderful to finally celebrate this gift of the concert that God has given us together with our American brothers and sisters.”

Each youth also was given a challenge from Rev. Moon that evening to practice as best he or she could to reach his or her full potential. “Just as I challenged the children of Japan ten years ago, I am going to challenge all of you today. By this time next year, when we celebrate the second Youth Concert for World Peace, I would like to see twelve bands come from each district that we have around the country”, she stated. “Then what I would like to do is produce an album of the top three young adult ministry bands in the country.”



The Ohio Band sings their version of "Wake Up" by Arcade Fire.

After her encouragement to the youth in attendance and around the country, she gave a special remembrance to her siblings who have passed away, who each had unique gifts and talents that they would have been able to pursue, including her younger siblings Heung Jin Moon, who was gifted in painting, and Young Jin Moon, who was a budding writer.

Donations were raised for the victims of Japan’s recent earthquake throughout the night by allowing the guests to text a code number from their phones, which would allow money to be given automatically from their phone

bill. Raffle prizes also were given away, including a new Apple iPad 2, which had everyone waiting in eagerness.

After the band performances, a ballroom-dance exhibition was given by youth who have acquired dance expertise through Lovin'Life Ministries. This began a night of dancing by all who were present, including a line dance taught to the audience by Miss Ariana Shin Sun Moon, to the famous song "Waka Waka" by Shakira.