

# *A Thousand Cranes*

禎子と千羽鶴

Director / Main actor : Noriko Tosaka

Stage effect/prompter: Yukiko Doi

Pianist: Michael Bell



This is our cry  
This is our prayer  
Peace in the world

The time has come to fold a thousand cranes again

# Welcome to music theatre performance

## A Thousand Cranes

### *Greetings from Noriko Tosaka*



I am very grateful to be able to perform this play here in Orkney.  
My first visit to the island was in 2014 for a Qualified Instructor Training course in Freeing the Natural Voice from the late Master Kristen Linklater. I was overwhelmed by the majestic scenery, and I fell in love with the islanders who live here. This will be my fourth visit, including 2014, 2016, 2019, and 2022.  
The story we bring to you today is the story of a girl from Hiroshima. At the same time, it is also the story of a Japanese woman who is fascinated by the Orkney Islands.  
In the composition of this story it is my wish to see if it is possible to unite the self and others.  
So, I hope that today's story will become the story of you and your family.  
Because everyone has an important story in their heart.  
I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone at OJA, the Kristin Linklater Voice Center, and everyone who helped make this play possible.  
Ari ga to u go za i ma su. (Thank you very much)  
May children around the world look up at the sky with a smile.

### *Greetings from the Consulate General of Japan in Edinburgh*

It is a great honour to hold Noriko Tosaka's special performance of "A Thousand Cranes". It is based on the true story of a 12 year old girl, Sadako, who was exposed to the first use of nuclear weapons in human history on August 6th, 1945 in Hiroshima in Japan. Diagnosed with leukemia as a result of the blast, she sadly succumbed to it 8 months after being informed of her illness. .  
Believing that folding a thousand cranes would cure her, Sadako continued to fold cranes from medicine wrappers and other materials until her death. Her story is widely passed down not only in Japan but also abroad, and a statue of Sadako has been erected at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. Through this event, I hope that the people of Orkney and Japan can be brought that ever bit closer, and that the story gives us an opportunity to think about the nature of war and peace.

### *Message from Kathryn Schultz Miller*

When Sadako began her journey, she was just an ordinary girl with ordinary dreams for the future. When war brought Sadako a future she did not expect, she made a wish. Her wish was not for herself only; she spoke for children all over the world. This is why the Orkney Japan Association's project is an excellent endeavour that perfectly honours Sadako's memory. It brings elegant Japanese culture to the beautiful and proud Scottish Islands, joining hands across the globe. Noriko Tosaka has devoted much of her career to this play, A Thousand Cranes, and Sadako's message. It seems to me that Noriko is much like Sadako herself. Through her thoughtful direction she brings us together with Sadako's wish: This is our cry, this is our Prayer, Peace in the World.

Kathryn Schultz Miller / ArtReach Children's Theatre Plays

### *The performance*

Each cast uses their mother tongue language. Noriko will act in Japanese. English subtitles are on the screen with Japanese Oracle Bone Calligrapher Jun Doi's artwork. People gathering the stage and say names and where they were born. Noriko's talk will begin. We will go through her feeling through her experience after that Noriko will take us to Sadako's story.

### *Oracle Bones Characters images on the screen*

Oracle bones characters are ancient characters that are the origin of the Japanese characters Kan - Ji used in Japan nowadays. The characters on the screens reflect the situation of the scene. Tokyo-based calligraphy artist Yukiko Doi (Calligraphy name: Jun) wrote the characters.



Consul General of Japan in Edinburgh

