

A Deep Musical Mission

During SGI President Ikeda's visit to New York in 1996, a youth jazz band comprising music students and professionals performed in the Youth Peace Culture Festival in Carnegie Hall. In the beginning of 1997, it was decided to continue this unique music group to develop the faith of these members who, due to their hectic schedules, may not have much opportunity to attend regular meetings.

A rehearsal studio became a meeting place where we were permitted to chant, do gongyo, study and exchange experiences while rehearsals took the other half of the meeting time. Because of the level of musicianship, it only takes one rehearsal to prepare performances.

The orchestra staff is presently planning to make this a monthly activity, scheduling more performances and creating a repertoire so that we can perform not only for members but also for the general public. By meeting and performing, this group will not only encourage its audience but will deepen the sense of its unique musical mission for world peace.

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