2020 Asia Tour
The Paper Crane Project

On March 8, 2020 the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO) with Music Director, Gianandrea Noseda will perform a concert in the City of Hiroshima, Japan. The NSO will be the first American orchestra to perform in Hiroshima in over 50 years.

This concert will occur nearly 75 years following the end of World War II. Hiroshima is the city known by many as the first city to be targeted by a nuclear weapon, when the United States dropped an atomic bomb on the city at 8:15 a.m. on August 6, 1945. Most of the city was destroyed, and by the end of 1945 approximately 150,000 people had died as a result of the blast and its effects. Today the City of Hiroshima and its Peace Memorial are an enduring monument to peace and global anti-nuclear disarmament. The NSO will be the first American orchestra to perform in Hiroshima in over 50 years. Gianandrea, NSO musicians, staff, and Board Trustees will visit the Peace Memorial Museum and Park.

Sadako’s story

Sadako Sasaki was two years old in 1945. She was in Hiroshima, at home with her mother at the time of the explosion. Despite being just 1km from the center of the blast, she survived the immediate effects. However, 10 years later purple spots started to form on her legs as a result of radiation sickness from the bombing. She was diagnosed with leukemia, a cancer of the blood. While in hospital, she learned that, according to Japanese legend, if she folded 1,000 paper cranes she would be granted a wish.

She started out folding dozens of cranes each day. When she ran out of paper, she used medicine wrappings and whatever else she could find. But then her condition worsened and she could only manage to fold one or two a day. Sadly, she died before reaching her target of 1,000 cranes. Her friends folded the remainder after her death. Sadako now symbolizes the impact of nuclear weapons on children. A memorial has been built in Hiroshima to honour her and all other child victims of the nuclear bombings. Her story continues to inspire thousands of people to work for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

An Offering of Paper Cranes

Today people all over the world bring and send folded paper cranes as offerings to the Children’s Peace Monument in the Peace Memorial Park.

The National Symphony Orchestra is planning to bring 1,000 paper cranes as an offering to the monument along with a list of individuals who have provided cranes.

If you would like to participate please follow these instructions:

- Make your folded paper crane following the instructions on the reverse side. You can use the origami paper provided or any paper measuring 15 cm x 15 cm.

- If you would like your name and a personal message for peace added to the Folded Paper Crane Database please complete this short Google survey: [https://forms.gle/nAkaGKDyCL1v7GAS9](https://forms.gle/nAkaGKDyCL1v7GAS9)

- Mail your paper crane with your name enclosed to the address below by February 19, 2020.
  
  Address: NSO Paper Crane Project
  
  National Symphony Orchestra
  
  PO Box 101510
  
  Arlington, VA 22210
1. Start with a square piece of paper, coloured side up. Fold in half and open. Then fold in half the other way.

2. Turn the paper over to the white side. Fold the paper in half, crease well and open, and then fold again in the other direction.

3. Using the creases you have made, bring the top 3 corners of the model down to the bottom corner. Flatten model.

4. Fold top triangular flaps into the centre and unfold.

5. Fold top of model downwards, crease well and unfold.

6. Open the uppermost flap of the model, bringing it upwards and pressing the sides of the model inwards at the same time. Flatten down, creasing well.

7. Turn model over and repeat Steps 4-6 on the other side.

8. Fold top flaps into the centre.

9. Repeat on other side.

10. Fold both 'legs' of model up, crease very well, then unfold.

11. Inside Reverse Fold the "legs" along the creases you just made.

12. Inside Reverse Fold one side to make a head then fold down the wings.

Finished Crane