

January 10, 2025

To Members of the Press

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Announcement of a Student-Organized Messiah Concert Reviving ICU's "Messiah" Concert Tradition with the Power of Students

On Wednesday, March 19, 2025, the International Christian University (ICU: Mitaka City, Tokyo; President: Shoichiro Iwakiri) will host a "Messiah" concert in its university chapel. The performance will feature a choir and orchestra primarily made up of fourth-year students, who are graduating this spring after enduring many constraints during their university life due to the COVID-19 pandemic, along with expert performers of early music and the grand pipe organ, a symbol of the university chapel.



◆What is the Messiah?

The "Messiah" is Handel's masterpiece, renowned for its "Hallelujah Chorus," which depicts the life of Christ. While this grand work is performed worldwide, including frequently in Japan, opportunities for young musicians to perform it with an orchestra are rare. Handel's score designates parts for experts and sections where general performers can join. This concert will aim to recreate these unique acoustic elements in parts.

◆Why revive the Messiah concert?

In the past, ICU had a tradition of performing parts of the Messiah at events like the Christmas Candlelight Service. However, the tradition was interrupted due to COVID-19 and other factors. The "Messiah" symbolizes ICU's foundation of rebuilding from desolation and its commitment to peace. Students are leading this revival to restore and pass on this tradition.

Funding for this concert is being supported by [Crowdfunding \(ReadyFor\)](#), running until Thursday, January 30.

◆Comments from participating students

- "Even though the performance itself lasts only a moment, the memory of creating music with fellow students, especially such a monumental piece as the Messiah, will be a lifelong treasure."
- "This performance of the Messiah will be my final concert before graduation. Reflecting on my student life, which began during the pandemic, I want this to be a culmination of my experiences at ICU."
- "My grandfather sang in a church choir that performed the Messiah. Though he's

no longer with us, I have fond memories of bonding with him over this piece. For me, singing the Messiah in this concert holds a personal sense of tribute and connection between me and my grandfather.”

- “Having organized several concerts in the chapel before, this one stands out with its unique program, structure, and members, which provides me a lot of learning. I’m looking forward to playing historically significant, high-quality music at ICU.”

◆ Message from Nozomi Sato, Director of the Sacred Music Center

“Handel composed the Messiah after overcoming a crisis that threatened his music career. He dedicated this work solely to noble purposes, such as supporting orphanages.

This masterpiece has been repeatedly performed through the collaboration of professionals and amateurs. Following Handel’s example, I’ve utilized my connections and gathered the best professional musicians to collaborate with the students, giving them an invaluable experience.

Like Handel, we aim to overcome challenges, strengthen bonds, and pass on goodwill to future generations through this performance.”

Event Details

Date/time	Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 3:00 PM (Doors open at 2:30 PM)
Venue	University Chapel, International Christian University campus
Admission	Free with donations (any amount accepted) *No assigned seating *If you donate via crowdfunding, an additional contribution is not required.
Program	Handel’s "Messiah" (Complete Work) – ICU Original Version

Accessing the University Chapel

From JR Chuo Line, take the Odakyu Bus from either Musashi-Sakai Station South Exit or Mitaka Station South Exit bound for ICU and get off at the final stop.

Travel time: 12 minutes from Musashi-Sakai Station South Exit, 20 minutes from Mitaka Station South Exit.

After alighting, walk 2–3 minutes along the main road in the same direction. The chapel (featuring a large cross on its front) is located on the other side of the roundabout (circular flowerbed).

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Contact Information:

<Concert inquiries>

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<https://readyfor.jp/projects/icuconcert>

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