

## *A letter of gratitude*

*To whom it may concern*

*On behalf of Hagi Choir, I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Uppsala Spelmanslag for its wonderful collaboration in the concert held at Aulan of Uppsala University on 30, Nov, 2018.*

*It is a long story to tell how Hagi came to Uppsala. It dates back to May, 2016, when Hagi organized a concert at Berlin Philharmonic, which ended up with a great success thanks to the help of the Japanese Embassy in Berlin. As it happened that I was invited to an applied physics conference in Stockholm in August, 2016, one of my friend in Hagi asked me to search a possibility of having a concert in Sweden in 2018. Sweden definitely is a special country for all the chorus lovers in Japan. "Good idea! But how can I do this without any connections to Sweden?" "Why don't you ask the Japanese Embassy in Berlin?" and so did I. On the very same day of my inquiry to Berlin, an email message came to me from the Japanese Embassy in Stockholm, saying "It's a wonderful idea to come to Sweden in 2018 because it will be the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between Japan and Sweden." The Stockholm concert started in this manner. But our project was even fueled when we were introduced to Emiko Tamura, an alumnus of Tohoku University and now a board member at Japan-Sweden Foundation. She immediately introduced us Edvard Fleetwood at Sweden-Japan Foundation, who kindly suggested a concert in Uppsala, in addition to Stockholm, and introduced us Shizuka Hansson as well. Without her great effort we could not find Uppsala Spelmanslag as our partner.*

*We do hope that this concert will serve as an unforgettable one page in the long history of friendship between Sweden and Japan.*

*30 November, 2018*

*President of Hagi Choir*

*Maki Suemitsu*

末光真希

