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**Logo of Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation**
Nippon Steel Corporation and Sumitomo Metal Industries, Ltd. have unveiled the logo of Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation, the new company to be created through the merger of the two companies on October 1, 2012.

**Licensing of New-type Copper Bonding Wire**
Nippon Steel Materials Co., Ltd. and Nippon Micrometal Corporation have signed a patent licensing agreement with Heraeus Materials Technology GmbH & Co KG in Germany for a new-type palladium-coated copper bonding wire used for LSI packaging.

**Final Agreement regarding Business Integration between Nippon Steel and Sumitomo Metals**
Nippon Steel and Sumitomo Metal Industries, Ltd. have reached a final agreement to integrate their businesses on October 1, 2012 using a two-step legal procedure, consisting of a share exchange followed by an absorption-type merger, to form Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corporation.
In 2012, both America and Japan hosted various events to honor the centennial of Japan’s gift of cherry blossom trees to the United States. Kioi Sinfonietta Tokyo (KST), a chamber orchestra supported by Nippon Steel, was invited to perform the closing concert of the Cherry Blossom Music Festival sponsored by the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. Extending from April 27 to May 2, KST’s U.S. concert tour had two express purposes: to celebrate the centennial of Japan’s 1912 gift of cherry trees and to convey the gratitude of Japan to the people of the United States for their support of the victims of the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. Introduced below is an overview of KST’s U.S. debut and the tour’s contribution to enhancing the depth of US-Japan relations.
KST Performances Hailed in Four Cities

Founded in 1995 as the resident chamber orchestra of Kioi Hall, a concert facility constructed by Nippon Steel, Kioi Sinfonietta Tokyo (KST) is comprised of the nation’s foremost instrumental musicians, all of whom work as soloists and chamber music performers or as first chairs in major orchestras throughout Japan. Previously, KST had successfully performed to high acclaim in Europe and South Korea.

In its debut U.S. tour commemorating the centennial of Japan’s gift of cherry blossom trees to the United States, KST gave public performances at Verizon Hall in Philadelphia on April 27, the National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. on April 29, Sanders Theatre at Harvard University in Boston on May 1, and Alice Tully Hall in New York on May 2. All proceeds from the U.S. concerts will be donated to support music education activities in the Tohoku area damaged by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and the accompanying tsunami.
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Swiss conductor Thierry Fischer, currently music director of the Utah Symphony Orchestra, led the ensemble with pianist Yu Kosuge acting as soloist. Yu Kosuge was awarded the Fresh Artist Award at the 13th Nippon Steel Music Awards. Although this was the first collaboration between Fischer and Kosuge, they proved to be a perfect match.

During the tour, on April 30, the KST woodwind ensemble participated in outreach activities* at Boston Higashi School, a special education school for autistic children located in the suburbs of Boston. Both students and parents warmly engaged the KST members and listened in rapt attention to their performance.

Managing Director Ryuichi Machida of the Nippon Steel Arts Foundation, who accompanied KST on its U.S. tour, said in retrospect: “Among the truly valuable experiences of the four-city tour were the truly unexpected successes of KST’s public performances and of its private performance at the special education school for autistic children in Boston. Our hearts were warmed by the nostalgia felt by Japanese nationals living in the United States when they heard the encore song Sakura-Sakura (Cherry Blossoms), which was composed specially to commemorate the centennial of Japan’s gift of cherry trees. We want to express our gratitude to all the parties whose support made this opportunity possible.”

*Outreach activity: Actions to promote art and education initiated by the artists at places of daily activity
National Gallery of Art in Washington
—Flowery Performance Surrounded by Art Works—

The National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. was established by the U.S. Congress in 1937 and is noted for its many famous works, such as “Woman with a Parasol” by Claude Monet. An exhibition of works by Jakuchu Ito, a Japanese painter of the mid-18th century, was held there from March 30 to April 29, 2012, and proved to be very popular among the Gallery’s visitors. Commemorating the centennial of the gift of 3,000 cherry blossom trees by the people of Japan to the people of the United States, this year’s National Gallery of Art Cherry Blossom Music Festival invited KST to perform the festival’s closing concert on April 29. KST performed on a special stage in the Gallery’s courtyard surrounded by art works.

In Washington, Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Fujisaki, invited all KST members to the ambassador’s residence and explained the history of the cherry tree gift.
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Sanders Theatre at Harvard University
—Reinforcing US-Japan Relations at the Historic Hall—

The public performance of KST in Boston was given at the Sanders Theatre of Harvard University. This theatre has a distinguished history that includes speeches delivered by Sir Winston Churchill and Martin Luther King Jr. Also, the theatre is known as the venue for the course “Justice” with Harvard professor Michael Sandel.

Professor Andrew Gordon, Director of the Edwin R. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University, has made many trips to Kamaishi City and other areas stricken by the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake and is promoting activities to preserve records of the quake and its disastrous effects. The recent public performance by KST at the Sanders Theatre was realized in response to a request by Prof. Gordon.

At the reception following the performance, Prof. Gordon said: “The audience, including my friends who are involved in music, expressed high praise for KST’s fine performance. Also, since it is known that the proceeds from KST performances in the U.S. will be donated to support reconstruction efforts related to the Great East Japan Earthquake, we have received promised donations from many persons who were not able to attend tonight’s performance.”

President Peter M. Grilli, Japan Society of Boston, stated: “Their music links the spirits of people across national borders, and tonight’s performance serves to mediate between the United States and Japan.”

Professor Andrew Gordon, Director of the Edwin R. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University
Boston Higashi School
—Warm Exchange at Special Education School—

The Boston Higashi School is a special education school for autistic children that was established in 1987 in the suburbs of Boston. It is affiliated with Musashino Higashi Gakuen School, an educational foundation established in Musashino, Tokyo, in 1964 by the late Mr. and Mrs. Kitahara. Its approach towards fostering of social independence in autistic children is put in practice by providing classrooms comprised of both autistic and non-autistic students and through the pedagogical techniques of Daily Life Therapy for autistic children.

The special outreach activity was kicked off with the introduction of Professor Gordon and his wife. On April 30, after the delivery of an address by Consul General Takeshi Hikihara, Consulate-General of Japan in Boston, the students’ jazz band sounded a fanfare. During KST woodwind ensemble’s performance, the students listened attentively to Japanese children’s songs and Ägyptischer Marsch (Egyptian March) by Johann Strauß II, and moved joyfully to the rhythms of a Disney medley.

Principal Deborah Donovan of Boston Higashi School expressed thanks to KST: “Our educational principle is to realize every parent’s wish—that their child should have a high quality of life. We are honored that KST came all the way from Japan to visit our school.” Kaname Ueno, a music teacher at the school, was delighted at the successful performance: “There are few chances for the children to directly experience classical music. Once the performance started, they sat absorbed in and enraptured by the classical music played by KST. I surely believe that the delighted faces of the children clearly demonstrated the success of the performance.”

Mineo Sugiki, a trumpet performer for KST, comments: “When the performance started, highly responsive voices reacted openly and loudly to our performance from every corner of the venue, confirming the ‘power of music’ to transcend words. We performed with heartfelt thanks to those who work for the school and gave us this opportunity.”
Philadelphia and New York
—KST Performances Hold Audiences Spellbound—

The KST performances in the U.S. included successful concerts at Verizon Hall in Philadelphia and Alice Tully Hall in New York. Cello-shaped Verizon Hall is the elegant home of the Philadelphia Orchestra and is noted for its fine acoustics. Alice Tully Hall is located in the Julliard School at the Lincoln Center in New York.

*The New York Times* (May 3) reports on the KST performance at Alice Tully Hall: “KST rendered a refined performance, and soloist Yu Kosuge showed elegant and supple skill. Celebrating the centennial of Japan’s gift of cherry blossom trees to the United States, the group did an encore performance of *Sakura-Sakura* (Cherry Blossoms), which fascinated the audience.”

Director General Kosei Shindo of the Nippon Steel Arts Foundation (Representative Director and Executive Vice President of Nippon Steel), who accompanied KST on its U.S. tour, expressed his sincere gratitude at a reception held at the residence of Ambassador and Consul General Shigeyuki Hiroki, Consulate-General of Japan in New York: “The performances by KST ended successfully due to the support and cooperation extended by concerned parties both in the U.S. and Japan. This tour was conducted with two objectives in mind: namely, to celebrate the centennial of the gift of cherry blossom trees and to express our gratitude for the extensive support extended by the U.S. to those suffering in the aftermath of the Great East Japan Earthquake. In order for our two nations to adequately handle emerging tasks while maintaining reliable relations, it is important to promote grassroots level exchanges. We will be honored if the current U.S. tour by KST helps to promote such exchanges.”
The cherry blossom trees lining the Potomac River in Washington, D.C., were a gift from Japan. A little over a 100 years ago, it was the hope of first lady Helen Taft, wife of W.H. Taft, the 27th president of the United States, that cherry blossom trees might be given to the U.S. capital. Her desire was made known via diplomatic channels to Yukio Ozaki, who was then the mayor of Tokyo. With the support of Dr. Jokichi Takamine, a prominent scientist and businessman in Japan, Mayor Ozaki made a donation of cherry blossom trees to the U.S. in 1909 with the hope of promoting US-Japan friendship. Unfortunately, the trees donated by Mayor Ozaki were infected with harmful insects and had to be incinerated. Then in February 1912, the Awa Maru of the NYK Line left the Port of Yokohama with a load of 6,040 quarantined trees for the U.S. Half of these tress arrived safely and were planted on the shores of the Potomac.

In commemoration of this gift, the Cherry Blossom Festival is held every year in Washington and is always bustling with many tourists.