

Greetings from the President's Office

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Rooted in ancient, Disseminated by Music -Modality of Liberal Arts Education

One of breakthroughs that AIU started gaining attentions widely from all over the nation is high success rate in finding employments in spite of short history from its foundation. The word “employments” indicates not only finding jobs at a certain firm but also being involved in agriculture, and being an artist who makes a living as a musician.

Our curriculum with liberal arts essence places emphasis on music and physical education as well. In the ancient liberal arts education, music allowed people to communicate with gods religiously and spiritually, and at the same time physical education enabled them to complete their resilient flesh.

Tsukamoto Takase, one of our graduate students, is a gospel singer. He used to be very much into rock music and spent a lot of time on music band actively when he was a student. The university provided classes such as “Music History” “Music Theory” and “Music Practice,” and he was fascinated by the depth of gospel music when he came across gospel music in them. After graduation, he moved to New York, USA, to learn real and deep gospel music genuinely. Currently he is active on an individual basis based in Tokyo occasionally performing with many artists of both Japan and overseas.

Takase is actively involved in outreach activities in Akita to convey the attractiveness of gospel through gospel classes in various places. At “Mitane Gospel” in Mitane town, he teaches singing with a motto of cultivating your self regardless of ages, having confidence in singing or not. The “Mitane Gospel” had an opportunity to perform the Christmas Gospel right before a game of Akita Northern Happinets. I was wondering what was like to perform in front of more than 4,000 audience.

Takase released a new original song “Let’s go by a pickup truck” in the fall two years ago. A year later, a typhoon Hagibis hit Japan and caused widespread destruction in October that urged him started a project with a local monk Mr. Yasumichi Shinkawa in Fujisato Town. This project aims to support affected areas through charity concerts and fund-raising, and the donation successfully reached a certain amount, which allows them to buy a second-hand pickup truck. After some tune-ups, they donated the car to Marumori Town in Miyagi Prefecture.

Besides students, our former Managing Trustee Mr. Sasaki (68) and his 3 colleagues formed a chorus group called “Country Playboy” commonly knows *Kampre*. They have performance at home or visiting concerts at other places. Sometimes our student group joins their performance.

Our liberal arts education has a source in the liberal arts of the Greece and Roman eras, and we are wondering how it has grown as the modern liberal arts education. Although the future is unknown, as the president, I am enthusiastic about our students embodying the essence of Akita’s International Liberal Arts education, at the same time, I am proud of them very much.



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<http://www.asahi.com/area/akita/articles/MTW20200218051550001.html>