

March Towards the 21st Century

Background of the Song:

There is no question that the most widely known English song being sung in the SGI today is “March Towards the 21st Century” is a song which sings of hope, freedom, the construction of peace in the world, and the spirit to advance towards the 21st century. The composition, lyrics and music by renowned UK guitarist Hugh Burns, was selected as the most excellent piece of SGI song out of the 436 entries collected from round the world. When the song made its debut, it met with favourable response even from Japan. In Okinawa, for instance, the prefecture chief at that time said as follows:

That were many occasions when we were deeply touched by overseas SGI members who sing Gakkai songs in Japanese. Thus, we are filled with a deep sense of gratitude that, now, we are able to learn to sing an English Gakkai song. We hope that through our song, we in turn can touch the hearts of others.

“March towards the 21st Century” was the theme song of “3rd World Peace Culture Festival” held in Hokkaido in 1983. At the festival, one could see adults and even senior citizens who had never sung an English song in their lives joyously and confidently joining in the singing of the song of the 21st century.