

Consulate-General of Japan in New Orleans

在ニューオリンズ日本総領事館ホームページ(旧) より

外山喜雄 2005年度 外務大臣表彰受賞

NEWS and EVENTS!!

Mr. Yoshio Toyama Receives Foreign Minister's Award

On August 4th, 2005, Consul General Masaru Sakato presented Mr. Yoshio Toyama with the Foreign Minister's Award for his work helping underprivileged children in the New Orleans area and his efforts to strengthen ties between Japan and the United States.

Yoshio Toyama to Receive

'Japan's Foreign Minister's Award

Last updated:
**August 24,
2005**

Mr. Yoshio Toyama has been selected to receive the Foreign Minister's Award for his dedicated efforts to help the underprivileged children of New Orleans and to strengthen grassroots ties between Japan and the United States. The Foreign Minister's Award, established in 1983, is given each year to organizations or individuals who have made remarkable contributions towards the promotion of understanding, exchange, and friendship between Japan and other countries.

Mr. Toyama and his wife, Keiko Toyama, lived in New Orleans on and off between 1968 and 1973. They were active in the New Orleans jazz music scene during that time, and the city left an indelible mark on them, personally and professionally. They went on to form the band, Yoshio Toyama and the Dixie Saints, and have played at Tokyo Disneyland's New Orleans Square since 1983.

After the 1992 shooting of Yoshihiro Hattori in Baton Rouge, the Toyama's decided to give back to their adopted country by using music to spread a message of non-violence and peace. This led the

Toyama's to found the Wonderful World of Jazz Foundation in 1994.

The Foundation, whose members are all Louis Armstrong fans, collects instruments in Japan, arranges for their refurbishment, and then donates them to New Orleans school children who cannot afford their own instruments. This year, the Toyama's will present instruments to the students of G.W. Carver Senior High School.

Mr. Toyama's noble dedication to the preservation of jazz and his instrument donations have twice earned him Honorary Citizenship from the city of New Orleans, while his talented trumpeting has secured the Dixie Saints a regular spot at the Satchmo SummerFest, sponsored by French Quarter Festivals, Inc. The Satchmo festival takes place at Louisiana State Museum's Old U.S. Mint, Esplanade at the River.

Yoshio Toyama and the Dixie Saints are scheduled to play at 12:30 PM on Saturday, 7 August at the AM 690 WTIJ Traditional Jazz Stage.

Details are available at the French Quarter Festival website:

<http://fqfi.org/index.php?id=11,14,0,0,1,0> .

Further information about

Mr. Toyama is available at <http://www.users.tapstep.net/saints/saints.shtml>

