FROM SGI PRESIDENT DAISAKU IKEDA:

Songs can unite; they can bring people together. Similarly, Gakkai songs--songs for kosen-rufu--unite our members in the cause of widely spreading the ideals and principles of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism. Throughout Japan and countries around the globe, our members are singing such stirring songs as they forge ahead valiantly to create a new era.

"Songs provide the rhythm for victory. Songs solidify the unity of mentor and disciple."


"Allow me now to return to Guo Moruo and the benefit of song. He continued: 'Song can rally the strength of one's own forces, and ... it can deflate the morale of one's opponents.' That's very true. This is why Mr. Toda always had members sing inspiring songs. Singing songs is a Gakkai tradition. Let's keep on doing so! Nothing can compare to the confident, dynamic, and optimistic momentum of our members united in spirited song.

"...At any rate, songs are important. Let's all sing together. As it says in the Gosho: 'The voice does the Buddha's work' (cf. OTT, 4)."

(SGI Newsletter No. 7582, 19th SOKA GAKKAI HEADQUARTERS LEADERS MEETING--PART 1 [OF 2] "It is the Heart That is Important," on June 18th, 2008, from the June 23rd, 2008, issue of the Seikyo Shimbun)
Monday, May 4, 2009 - TO MY FRIENDS
The strength of our life force manifests itself in our voices. Let's therefore use our courageous voices for the cause of justice and make them echo all over the world, and so help as many people as we can to hear about this Buddhism and its philosophy!

Wednesday, March 4, 2009 - 27th Headquarters Leader’s Meeting, Tokyo
"We in the Soka Gakkai often sing songs. We forge ahead to the sound of our resonant voices lifted in song. Those who love singing have happy hearts. Indeed, it could be said that if you can sing cheerfully, you have already won. Let's sing! Let's sing songs of courage and hope!"

"Where there are songs, there is growth, there is vigor and momentum. Songs spur swift action and victory. Likewise, a realm without bright, stirring songs will inevitably degenerate."

Monday, November 3rd, 2008 - DAILY ENCOURAGEMENT
"The reason that the Soka Gakkai has stressed the importance of songs and their ability to unite people's hearts is that unity between mentor and disciple (i.e., oneness of mentor and disciple) and unity between fellow members (i.e., the spirit of many in body, one in mind) together comprise the unchanging formula for absolute victory in kosen-rufu and in our personal lives as practitioners of the Daishonin's Buddhism. Unity in both cases is essential to the deepening of our own individual faith and to the progress of kosen-rufu. Indeed, it is no exaggeration to say that the ongoing development of the Soka Gakkai will depend on whether or not these vital ingredients are preserved and passed on to future generations.

"In every major campaign I waged for kosen-rufu--be it in Ota and Bunkyo wards in Tokyo, in Japan's northern island of Hokkaido, in Osaka in Kansai, or in Yamaguchi Prefecture--I did all I could to share Mr. Toda's guidance and vision with the members and urged them to join me in winning as his disciples. I realized that the future of our movement hinged on us uniting solidly together for the sake of kosen-rufu and actually putting our mentor's teachings into practice in our lives. That was why I built a rhythm of victory through the unity of diverse individuals dedicated to a common
goal, centering on the crucial pivot of the unity of mentor and disciple.

"Let us take the example of a huge 10-million-horsepower engine. By connecting the gears of a machine to that engine, we can readily tap 10-million-horsepower of energy. In much the same way, therefore, aligning our hearts with our mentor in kosen-rufu is the formula for victory in our movement."


Saturday, November 1st, 2008 - DAILY ENCOURAGEMENT
"Firm determination decides everything. A single moment of resolve can change one's life forever. One person can make a difference. A single individual can change history."

(SGI Newsletter No. 7656, Dialogues with World Citizens, Betty Williams--Founder and President of the World Centres of Compassion for Children International (WCCCI), from the Sep. 14th, 2008, issue of the Seikyo Shimbun, translated Oct 30th, 2008)

Wednesday, August 20th, 2008 - DAILY ENCOURAGEMENT
Beethoven declared: "My art shall be exhibited only in the service of the poor." To struggle with one's own destiny while at the same time striving to impart courage to others so that they can challenge and triumph over their own destinies-this calls to mind the bodhisattva way of life. A bodhisattva firmly believes that there is no hardship or suffering that cannot be surmounted.

The doctrine of changing karma taught in Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism is an unrivaled principle of victory in life, bringing hope, courage, and confidence to all people. It embodies a philosophy of supreme humanism showing that each individual inherently possesses the power to weather any destiny. It also constitutes a tenet of unsurpassed respect for the sanctity of life, revealing the fundamental causality of life by which we can actually
tap and manifest this power. In short, it represents a hope-filled teaching for all humanity, illuminating as it does the latent power innate in each person's life.

(SGI Newsletter No. 7595, SGI President Ikeda's Study Lecture Series, LEARNING FROM THE GOSHO: THE HOPE-FILLED WRITINGS OF NICHIREN DAISHONIN, [9] "Lessening One's Karmic Retribution")

**Tuesday, August 19th, 2008 - TO MY FRIENDS**

The curtain has risen for our main performance. Brimming with life force, let's challenge ourselves to achieve our goals and targets enthusiastically and courageously. Let's make every possible effort to decisively establish a new record in our own achievement.

(translated from TO MY FRIENDS in the Seikyo Shimbun)

**Friday, May 23rd, 2008 - TO MY FRIENDS**

In the journey of our advancement of kosen-rufu, there will always be songs of hope for us to sing and vibrant rhythms for us to advance with. Now together, with light and cheerful steps, let's advance even more courageously than ever before!

**Saturday, May 26th, 2007 - TO MY FRIENDS**

Wherever people's singing resounds, kosen-rufu advances with the rhythm of victory. Let's sing songs of hope! Let's sing songs that give us vigor and strength and a wish to really advance!

Since music is soothing as well as liberating, wherever there is song, there is growth. President Toda used to say, "Wherever people have prospered throughout history, song could always be heard." In the SGI, too, as long as we cherish music and song, our organization will continue to develop. The
same is true of society. It could be said that a society in which the people
hum beautiful songs has a rhythm of advancement. On the other hand the
future of a society plagued by moans and cries must be bleak. (The Wisdom of
the Lotus Sutra, Volume 6, page 60)