

“Hope” Press Release



HOPE: THE TREE OF LIFE: Music producers, musicians, video artist, and the children come together to offer vision, hope, and new life.

In collaboration between Syn's Nick Wood and Grammy-nominated musician Julian Lennon, a group of musicians and music producers have come together to raise money for the ongoing recovery effort after the earthquake and resulting tsunami that hit northern Japan on March 11, 2011. Wood, a longtime resident of Japan, felt a need to contribute to the relief effort and tapped his network to co-produce this piece of music with Grammy Award-winning producer, John Jones. Wood, Lennon, and Japan's top-selling record producer, Tetsuya Komuro, perform the piece called “Hope.”

“Hope” pays homage to one pine tree left standing in Rikuzentakata, a city destroyed by the tsunami. Rikuzentakata was once home to over 70,000 trees, but after the quake, only one was left standing.

This tree has symbolized hope, strength, and resilience to the people of Rikuzentakata. “Hope” speaks to, and for, the people who are experiencing grief and coping with destruction in the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami. It additionally lauds the people who have worked to rebuild and resume life after the disaster. Total damages from the quake and tsunami are estimated to be about US\$309 billion.

“Hope” by Nick Wood feat. Julian Lennon, Tetsuya Komuro, and BEYOND Tomorrow students will be available worldwide on iTunes and music.jp starting March 7th (Wed). The release is accompanied by a music video produced and edited by Aéro Film under the creative guidance of BAFTA member and Aéro founder and executive producer, Lance O'Connor, as well as award-winning photographer and director, Indrani. The video will be released on YouTube on March 14th (Wed), and sold worldwide on iTunes from April 4th (Wed). Featured in the video and providing background vocals for the piece are The Boston Boys and Girls Club and some of the orphans of Kesenuma. The music recording and production of “Hope” have been made possible by David Cocherrio and Mark Streeter of CLSA. All proceeds from the song go to the continued recovery effort through BEYOND Tomorrow, an NPO that supports children who have lost their parents from the earthquake.

BEYOND Tomorrow:

BEYOND Tomorrow is a non-profit initiative dedicated to supporting the young victims of the Great East Japan earthquake and tsunami through scholarships and leadership training. For more information about BEYOND Tomorrow please visit <http://www.beyond-tomorrow.org/en/>.

The Boston Boys and Girls Club:

The Boston Boys and Girls club is a 501(c)3 based in Boston, Massachusetts, dedicated to helping young people build strong character and realize their full potential as leaders. For more information about the Boys and Girls Club please visit <http://www.bgcb.org>.

Aéro Film:

Aéro Film was founded in 2005 by EPs Lance O'Connor, Skip Short, and Director Klaus Obermeyer. As one of the world's leading integrated production companies, Aéro offers in-house specialists poised to launch into production anywhere on the planet. For more information about Aéro please visit <http://aerofilm.tv>.

Syn:

Co-founded by Nick Wood and Simon Le Bon in 1988, Syn is an innovative creative studio specializing in music, events, live entertainment, and brand marketing. With experts from each corner of the industry - music composition, recording/production, rights management, promotion, marketing and experienced personnel in account management and creative services, Syn provides clients with ground breaking creative solutions. For more information about Syn please visit <http://syn.co.jp>.



Nick Wood

Award-winning composer, producer and artist. In 2002, his single, "Passion", the theme for Kirin Beer's 'Love Sports' campaign, reached #1 on Japan's International charts and continues to be the most popular sports anthem in Japan. Other works include soundtrack work for Dream Island (Wim Wenders), 13 Kaidan, To-i Umi Kara Kita Coo, Love Kills (Mario van Peebles), and Railways 2. His music has also been featured on Robbery Homicide and Sex and the City. Creative collaborators include Bebel Gilberto, Dr. John, Chris Corner, Graham Massey, Maxi Priest, Robert Palmer, Simon Le Bon, Tetsuya Komuro, and more.



Julian Lennon

Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter and musician, actor, documentary film producer, fine-art photographer, and philanthropist. Born in Liverpool to late Beatle John Lennon and Cynthia Powell. Beloved by fans around the world for his beautifully crafted, melody-minded albums, most recently Lennon released his sixth album "Everything Changes" in the UK on October 3rd, 2011. He also continues to pursue his love of photography, encouraged by the success of his first-ever exhibition, Timeless, which took place in New York City in 2010.



Tetsuya Komuro

Mega-hit producer, keyboardist, guitarist, and singer-songwriter. He is recognized as being the most successful producer in Japanese music history, having sold more than 70 million records in Japan alone, and introducing dance music for the first time to the Japanese mainstream. In the Japan singles chart of April '96, he monopolized the top 5 positions as songwriter and producer, a world record, and all top 3 positions of the copyright distribution rankings for JASRAC in the previous year. He is widely regarded as one of the most influential figures in pop throughout the 1990s.



John Jones

Grammy-winning record producer who has worked with Duran Duran and many high-profile rock and pop musicians. He wrote and produced the Celine Dion song "Seduces Me" from the multi-platinum CD Falling Into You, for which Jones won 1997 Grammy Awards for 'Album Of The Year (Producer)', 'Album Of The Year' and 'Pop Album Of The Year (Engineer)'.