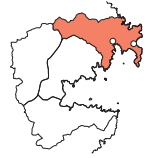


Songs for the Future of Minamisanriku : Isatomae & Natari Elementary School

A year of hard work expressed in a song



▲ The lyrics of the song written by the children of Isatomae Elementary School lifted the spirits of the adults who had worked so hard.

Photo Asada Masashi

Fight! Minamisanriku

Music and words by
Isatomae Elementary School, Grade 4, Class 1

I helped draw water
I carried relief supplies
I cooked a meal for everyone
We cleared the rubble together
We got by on a small amount of food
Rubble is heavy
Water is heavy, too

We all worked together
We lost our workplaces
We opened new businesses without giving up hope
We started working hard

We dragged a boat away
We caught white goby and salmon
Sea squirt, oysters, wakame
We inserted the larvae

We all worked together
We all worked together
We all worked together

The children of Isatomae Elementary School wrote a song expressing the hard work that they and their acquaintances carried out over the year since the disaster. Their school building destroyed in the tsunami, Natari Elementary School third and fourth graders were attending classes at Isatomae Elementary School. Their song was one that recalled the beauty and the good qualities of the area in which they lived.

The children composed the song by hanging a "do-re-mi-fa-so-la-ti" card hanging around their necks and playing a sorting or ordering game a few times. From the arrangement of sounds that formed spontaneously, they created a melody. Deciding on a rhythm and adding lyrics that they each contributed to, the song came into being.

The resulting song is a collection of the children's sentiments and experiences.

Some teachers felt skeptical about this endeavor, wondering whether looking back on the year at this time would make the children feel unsettled and whether there was any meaning in writing such a song. Their worries soon evaporated. The song composed by the children was filled with images of the beauty of their hometown and the strong-mindedness of their hard-working community and family members. With great enthusiasm, the children and teachers practiced the song during homeroom hour each day. When they sang in the performance, the children's voices were powerful and confident, touching the hearts of the adults.



▲ Though few in numbers, the voices of the children of Natari Elementary School resounded exceptionally loudly.

Photo Asada Masashi

A Happy Town for Everyone

Music and words by
Natari Elementary School Grade 3,
Class 1 & Grade 4, Class 1

The sea sparkles, the view is beautiful
There's greenery everywhere,
and the sakura were in flower
A lot of kind people live here
The old folks are very active

We have cats
School lunches are yummy
We play soccer every day
There's lots of fish
There's lots of abalone
Seaweed on the boat
In a big pile
Scallops, oysters