

38th Annual Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival (April 26-28)

From April 26 to April 28, the Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival Committee and the Seattle Center co-organized and held the 38th Annual Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival (also known as the Sakura Matsuri).



This year, timed with the Sakura Matsuri, the Japan Foundation presented a special photography exhibit, “Tohoku – Through the Eyes of Japanese Photographers”, and held a demonstration of the traditional folk art from Tohoku *Shishi Odori* (the deer dance).





In addition to these events, there was a *Go* lecture by Narumi Osawa (a cultural ambassador from Japan), concerts with special photography, dancing from Okinawa, a *shamisen* performance, and abacus records were shattered by special guests invited from Japan. Cultural organizations from the area as well as the Consulate-General of Japan in Seattle held exhibits and demonstrations and a movie screening of films that depict the recovery of the Tohoku region. Compared to last year, Japanese Culture was introduced to the Sakura Matsuri audience in an increasingly diverse number of ways, and an opportunity to share the message that the Tohoku region is making steady progress towards recovery and is open for business and travel.



We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all those who made this event a success.