



Progress Report for the 2024 Boston Charity Concert (BCC)

JB Line, Inc.

About JB Line, Inc.

JB Line, Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization established on October 26, 2010.

Our mission is to support people primarily in, but not limited to, the Japanese community in New England to solve problems they face in their daily lives by providing them with consultation, giving them needed information, offering them direct support services, or connecting them with other social resources.

The services we currently provide are

- Japanese/English Support Line
- Community-Based Support (Case Management)
- Domestic Violence/Divorce/Parental Rights Support
- Senior Support
- Young Family Support
- Outreach

About Uta-no-kai (Japanese Sing-Along) Support Group

With your generous grant, we were able to continue offering our Uta-no-kai support group to the community in the year of 2024.

- In Uta no Kai participants, guided by a music therapist, enjoy singing approximately ten songs within an hour every other Friday. These include nostalgic Japanese songs, folk songs from around the world, and seasonal melodies. We provide both hybrid and online-only formats.
- Participants can request specific songs that have particular meanings for them. This is in addition to the more than 300 songs already in our songbook.
- We have prepared lyric songbooks for attendees, and participants attending in person can enjoy singing while following the songbooks.

Utilization of your donation

We had 23 total Uta-no-kai meetings from January to December 2024.

The support funds have been utilized for fees for the music therapist, material fees for songbooks, and other administrative costs.



Photos: Uta-no-kai in-person at the Belmont Senior Center

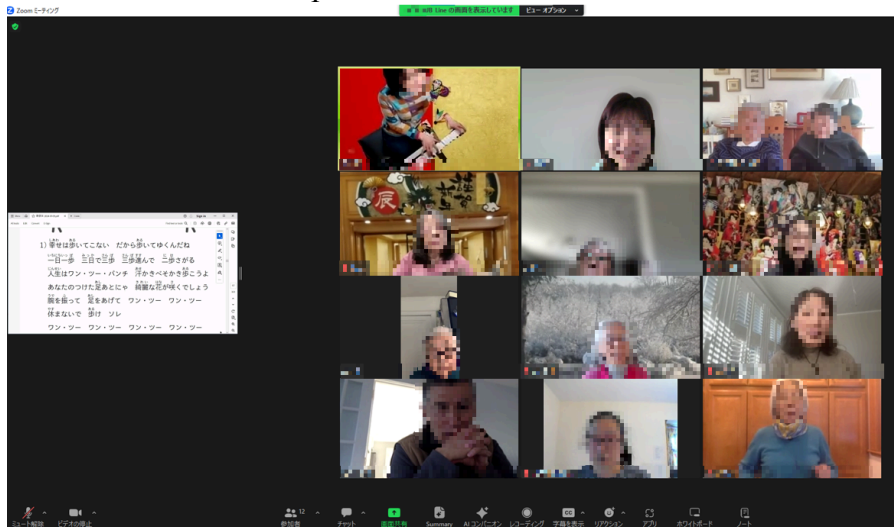


Photo: Uta-no-kai online-only

Uta-no-kai Outcomes

Singing nostalgic and culturally significant songs provides tremendous comfort and peace, and promotes mental health to those facing the challenges of aging in New England.

Singing can also be enjoyed even by those with cognitive challenges. Many enjoy singing familiar songs from childhood or songs that they heard from their parents. It is very rewarding to see the smiles on their faces and the tears in their eyes when they sing nostalgic songs together. We, JB Line staff and volunteers, also enjoy singing with them.

In 2024, we transitioned our in-person gatherings from the library to the Belmont Senior Center. Conducting sessions in this spacious public venue allowed other senior center users to join freely, fostering community connections through music.

Looking ahead to 2025, we plan to organize a special event to actively promote our in-person singing sessions, to engage broader participation.

Attendees Voices:

We two, now in our old age, don't get to go out much anymore. The singing group brings out nostalgic Japanese songs, and it is a precious and enjoyable time for us to be able to participate in them.

Just listening to nostalgic songs is a comforting experience for us.

I have been in Boston for several decades and have spent most of my life here. I have fond memories of songs I heard and sang in Japan when I was a child, and I enjoy every time I attend a singing group.

It is good to sing together to cheer up. It warms the body and spirit.

I am hard of hearing and I am not a good singer, but I am happy and enjoy the company of the singing group.

I think singing in a choir is very good for the body since there are not many opportunities to speak loudly in everyday life. I always appreciate the efforts of the staff, especially in preparation. I hope the singing group becomes an event widely loved by seniors.