

## 2021 年 3 月 11 日 GOCOO LIVE    Message from KAOLY

On 3.11.2011

it felt as though the world suddenly came to a halt  
as if the page was abruptly turned over without warning  
even for those of us living in Tokyo where the damage was limited  
the life as we knew it just disappeared,  
hurling us into what felt like a totally different world

what was normal was no more, like playing the taiko almost everyday  
many days passed in pain, sorrow, fear, and darkness  
as the news played the images of devastation on TV

at last, some of us gathered together to play the taiko when a studio opened  
we placed the taiko in a circle as usual

but none of us could jump in and play right away  
we needed to talk and reflect on the reason why  
we were there to witness what had happened  
what was the meaning of our encounter with taiko  
and of us continuing to play

when we finally stood in front of the taiko  
the song ELEVEN was born

it actually felt like ELEVEN created itself,  
the song came to us on its own accord  
I was merely a channel for it to enter this world  
it took only one day, not months that usually takes me to compose a piece

The last part of this song was the chant of Rainbow Warriors  
that GOCOO played on our tour around the native American reservations  
led by Dennis Banks back in 2000

despite being in the midst of chaos, fear and pain,  
each time we played ELEVEN, immeasurable power welled up inside us  
along with tears

for the past 10 years, we kept playing ELEVEN and kept telling the story  
as we travelled all over Japan and the world  
but somehow the memory of 2011 was confused and disorderly  
and in 2020, we spent the year in such desperation that  
it was not possible to reflect on the days back in 2011

in anticipation of the live performance on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
taking the time to look back  
I realize how strong we were back then  
and by "we" I mean all of us living at the time

everything had stopped in time  
the hours in the dark and in fear felt endless

But...after 3.11, as for us  
on April 22<sup>nd</sup> that year, GOCOO performed live  
and played ELEVEN for the very first time in support of restoration  
in May, we celebrated Matsuri with the members of Tawoo Dojo  
and played ELEVEN together  
immediately after that, some of the Tawoo members visited  
the hardest hit area to play ELEVEN, to give prayer  
at the same time, GOCOO left for the one-month tour in Europe  
and played ELEVEN pouring our soul everywhere we visited  
so many people filled the Japanese flags with warm messages

In 2020, everything stopped once again for the entire year in contrast,  
in 2011, people rose up only a few days later within weeks,  
the residents, volunteers and others were running at full speed  
and they kept running

the word "kizuna (bond)" was everywhere then

we were holding hands, hugging, encouraging, and supporting each other  
with strangers, with people we met for the first time  
in order, not only for us, but for the community, the country, and the world  
to survive

this nation, or the world could have ended  
the future could have been extremely dire  
but we are here now in the future  
through our prayers, thoughts, and actions

since 3.11, I have been tasked with giving birth to ELEVEN  
and telling our story and in the past 10 years,  
I have been blessed with so many encounters in Japan and the world

as I prepare to bring everyone together virtually to play ELEVEN  
I'm in awe of how many people have poured their heart and soul  
into playing this piece and erecting the pillar of sound

last year I struggled with the reality of 2020,  
it was not what I had envisioned vaguely in 2011  
as the decade after, the future

but, now looking back from the future  
made possible by collective power of people  
I think of the numerous pillars we erected by playing ELEVEN for the world  
following the tragic event of 3.11

each and everyone of us in our own way kept working  
to build the support for this world  
making history, filling the world with love  
we are always living in the world supported by love  
and know that we will be OK

when we look back at now someday  
we will be certain and believe that  
we will be all right because we in the past lived and loved  
in order to connect our lives  
let's live this life to its fullest and turn our love into something tangible  
for the sake of children 7 generations away

GOCOO KAOLY

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