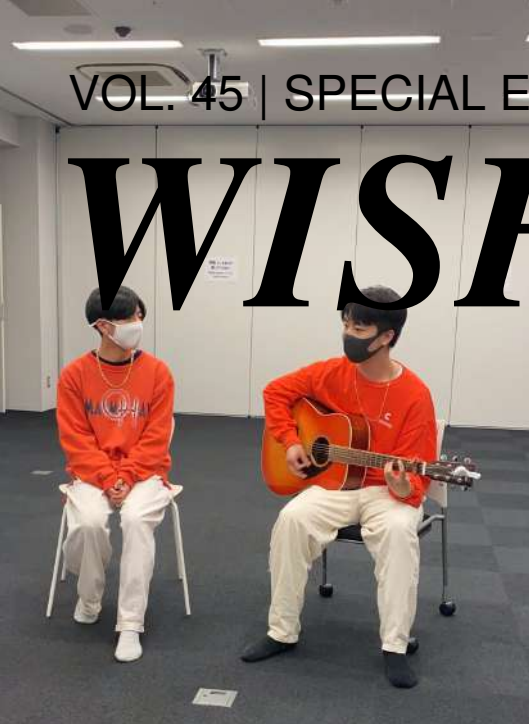


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WISH TIMES



WISH TALENT NIGHT





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“Watch out for their amazing talents”

Writer: RIO

Translator: YUI

Design: MOEKA

In WISH, there are numerous people with a variety of talents who strive in different fields. The Talent Night is the perfect place for all of these amazing people to gather and make it an unforgettable event.

Twelve groups competed at last months' talent show, each showing off their bright talent just like glittering diamonds.

Fortunately, I was there to witness the event, so I am going to write about it for those who missed it, but my words might not be enough to describe it. Hence, I recommend you watch the event on the WISHRA YouTube channel once the video is uploaded.

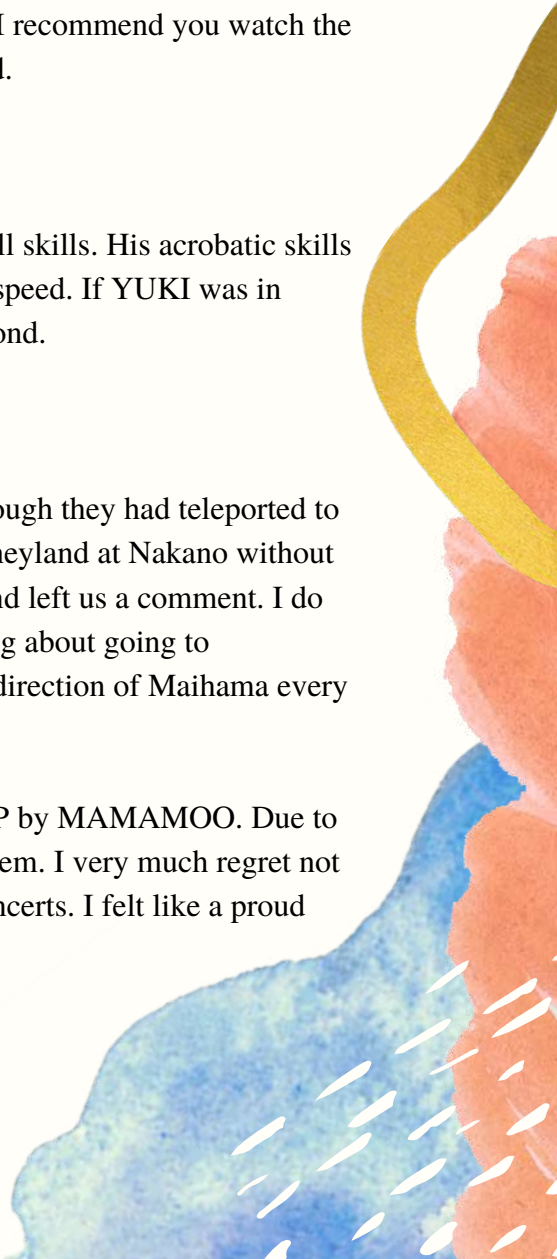
7p.m. The start of the event!

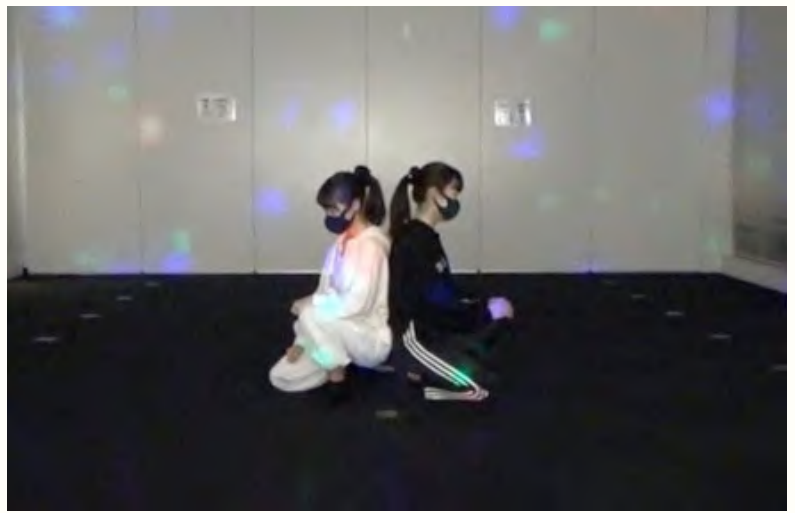
The event started with YUKI, who showed us his amazing basketball skills. His acrobatic skills kept everyone's eyes glued to his hands, spinning the ball at a high speed. If YUKI was in charge of the earth's rotation, everything would blow away in a second.

HIROMU played the original Disney playlist with his trumpet.

Some say that those who listened him playing the trumpet felt as though they had teleported to Disneyland, but I'd say that he just opened up the NEW Tokyo Disneyland at Nakano without anyone noticing. Even Mickey Mouse appeared in the Zoom chat and left us a comment. I do have to admit that after that night I haven't been able to stop thinking about going to Disneyland, so much so that I've been falling asleep looking in the direction of Maihama every night.

YUI & AIRI, roommates from the 10th floor danced to the song HIP by MAMAMOO. Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, I couldn't scream or cheer for them. I very much regret not bringing a penlight so I could wave at their dance just like in the concerts. I felt like a proud mother cheering on their kid since I am their block RA.





YUNA played and sang along to her original song. Her charming smile and beautiful voice mesmerized the crowd. It felt like my spirit was cleansed, and I can't help but wonder what inspired her to write that song. I hope more people get the opportunity to listen to it.

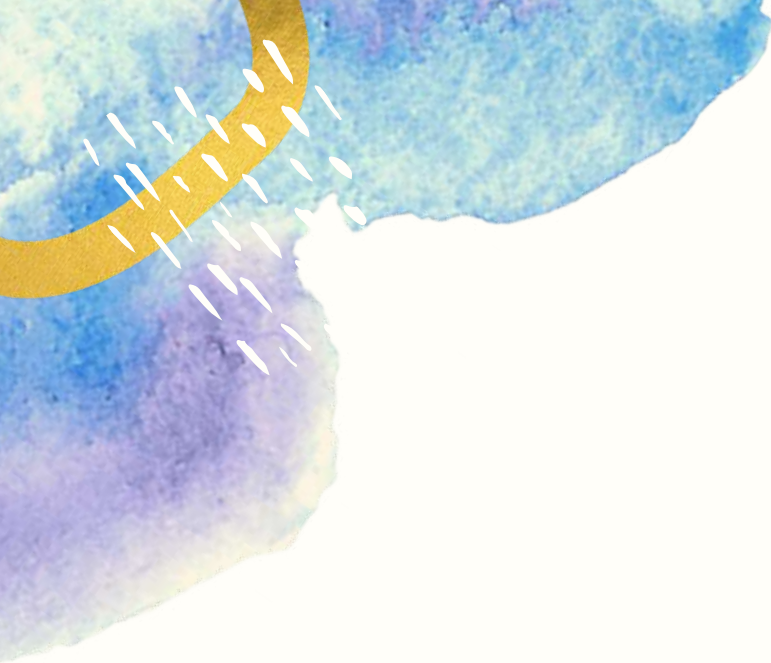
KOKONE sang “そっけない” (“Sokkenai”) by RADWIMPS with her ukulele. Her taste in music is glorious. Her voice is strong but so delicate at the same time, and it fits perfectly with the song. It was so relaxing that I didn't even realize that the song was over.



SEIMA played “じょんがら節” (“Jongara Bushi”) and “はらふりほむら” (“Harafurihomura”) with his shamisen.

First, the names of the songs were so unique that they left a strong impact on the audience. Second, his performance was extremely breathtaking. Third, THE SHAMISEN IS SO COOL. It was my first time sitting down and listening to the shamisen, but now I might be obsessed with it.





MYU played a playlist of popular songs with her saxophone. Her playlist took us to different worlds, from the beautiful nature of Ghibli to the resplendent supervillain world that Lupin the 3rd lives in. Even Lupin and Inspector Zenigata showed up in the comment section for a little comedy. Indeed, incredible music has the power to give life to fictional characters.

KOTONE & COCO sang “夜に駆ける” (“Yoru ni Kakeru”) by YOASOBI, and “Rewrite the Stars” by Anne-Marie and James Arthur. Their voices were heavenly, and it reminded me of nighttime. The harmony that they created was gorgeous and it filled the room with joy.





TATSUYA & KEIIN danced to Dynamite by BTS. Their dancing was extraordinary, but at the same time, they didn't forget to amuse the crowd with their sense of humor. Everyone was very entertained by it, and I thought that I was going to get a six-pack from laughing too much. The Hawaiian shirt and apron with a drawing of milk KEIIN was wearing suited him very well, and TATSUYA's dance moves were so smooth that it made it seem like his body didn't have any joints. I am not brilliant at dancing, so I might ask them to teach me sometime.

MIU & HIKARI were so in sync playing “愛の挨拶” (“Ai no aisatsu”), and “情熱大陸” (“Jonetsu Tairiku”) that they captured everyone's heart. It was heartwarming to see how some 11th-floor members were cheering them on over the zoom chat. I used to see MIU practice her violin in the music room pretty often. Since I play the violin as well, we decided that we would play Pachelbel's Canon together if we get the chance. It's so nice to see how music unites people, and how the RAs had the chance to interact with residents at WISH at the talent night.





Now, I am going to briefly go over the RAs' performances.

It was such a pleasure to be able to perform with MIHO who used to be my roommate. We used to talk about how we wanted to perform together ever since our freshman year, so it was truly a dream come true.

SATOSHI'S soft voice and KAITO'S gentle guitar was an excellent combination. They embody the words "brothers from another mother". I think their version of "夜行" by ヨルシカ ("Yakou" by Yorushika) was better than the original one. If you want music that makes you relaxed, just call them and ask if they can sing for you because I bet they will say yes.

9:30p.m. End of the event

We have to thank the advancement of technology for allowing us to have such a great experience even in this time of the pandemic.

KAITO, who was in charge of organizing the Talent Night, told me that he was very happy to hear participants being really satisfied with the event. This event inspired me and gave me some positive energy!

Thank you to all those who attended and participated in the event, and I'm really grateful to the RAs who organized it!



Talent Night During The COVID-19 Pandemic

Writer: MIHO

Translator: YUKIE

Design: MOEKA

“During spring break of my freshman year of college, my WISH life was suddenly taken away. And I spent 217 days in Hokkaido.”

Talent night was the first in-person event we had had in ages although only performers were able to participate face to face in this event. The road was quite difficult as the state of emergency was extended just before the event, but we managed to hold an event preventing infection during the event. This time I have documented the trajectory of the Talent Night from the preparatory phase to that day as simple as possible, so you can get a peek behind the scenes of performances.

- Roomie from Hokkaido and Roomie from Okinawa

I entered WISH in March 2019 and then met RIO for the first time. WISH is an international student dormitory, so of course, there are students from all over the world. However, you should not forget that there are dormitory friends from all 47 prefectures as well. At WISH, two people who grew up on opposite sides of Japan can live together by chance. She can play the violin and I can play the piano. Fortunately, we were able to live in WISH for two years so we were talking about playing together someday.

- Our WISH Life Suddenly Taken Away

One year later, our WISH life was suddenly taken away because of the COVID-19 pandemic and I spent 217 days in Hokkaido, my hometown. We could not meet for a long time, let alone play together. And We had less than a month until the day we graduate from WISH.

- WISH Life Extension and Talent Night

Fortunately, we both became RAs. In April 2021, Rio asked me to participate in the event and play together. I promptly told her “I would do it”. Until then, I had always said “Someday, I want to try it”. But owing to “the thing (COVID-19 pandemic)”, I realized that the “someday” can be easily taken away. Thus, I said, “Let’s try it now”.

- Inside Story

I learned to play the piano from the age of four to fourteen. I wondered how long it has been since I practiced a new piece of music and presented it in public. For two months, I played the piano almost every day for the first time in a long time and I did not realize until I started practicing the piano that “she(Piano)” was sensitive and complicated despite her easy-going appearance. As soon as I started practicing, I would like to quit, this is a secret though.

We had made time for the event and practiced a lot for two months. I was the happiest person while performing and watching other dormitory students’ performance. Being in WISH, playing together with my best friend, seeing tons of talents, letting me learn to play an instrument, having an important roommate, becoming an RA, and cooperating for organizing and hosting the Talent Night, I realized the happiness that I had overlooked. The water balloon of my emotions was broken because of “ the thing” that suddenly took away my “daily life”. What has taken from me is too big, but it has also given me and made me realize a lot of things.

Thank you for everything that makes my heart beat faster.





Writer: HIROMU

Translator: YUKIE

Design: MOEKA


Reunion on Stage ~Excitement for the first "real" performance in two years~

The other day, I had the opportunity to perform at “Talent Night”, an event where volunteers from WISH students were invited to perform in a kind of concert. Some presented their compositions, some danced, and some played violin. So, we enjoyed a wide variety of performances. Although the event was held online, more than 100 people came to see it, making it a very exciting event.

Since the deadline for the entry of performers was right after I entered the dormitory, I was worried about whether or not I would be able to perform, but the RAs pushed me and I ventured to enter for the event.

I decided to register before I had even decided what I was going to do. Thus, I regretted my decision for a few times, but I had no choice but to perform perfectly. Then, I decided to perform with my trumpet, with whom I overcame five years of tough days in the orchestra club I belonged to in junior high and high school. However, after a long blank period of two years between my third year in high school and one year as a *ronin*, I became quite bad at playing the trumpet, and I was very frustrated. But I tried to improve it for the sake of audiences’ enjoyment of my performance.

The night before the performance, I had a dream that I made a big mistake on the stage during the performance, a dream that I have had since I was in the third year of junior high school, which I see before national competitions and regular concerts of my club activities. And the day of the performance, I realized my anxiety. I felt a strange elation mixed with anxiety and excitement for my first performance in two years, but it was a nostalgic and lovely feeling.



When it was my turn, I breathed in and sang along with the trumpet. At that time, many nostalgic memories came back to me at once: my classmates who always pulled me along in club activities in junior and senior high school, juniors who supported and followed me even though I was not very good at leading them, seniors who patiently guided me, my dear orchestra mates, and my advisor who conducted in front of me. The nostalgic memories almost made me cry. At the same time, I thought,

“When I am on stage, I can reconnect with many memories.”

After the event, my 4th-floor friends said “That was great!” and “ You are a good Trumpet Player!”. That led me to realize the importance of the audience, and I want to stand on stage again. Also, I want to bring enjoyment, joy, and excitement to the audience again!

Although I have only been in the dormitory for a short time, I have seen various performances by other residents, and in a sense, I felt "Waseda-ism". I would say that WISH is a very good environment where I can always experience such "Waseda-ism". If I have another opportunity like this, I would like to boldly challenge myself and move many people.





Writer, Translator, Design: MOEKA

Interview With Dormitory Students After Talent Night

Hello, I'm RA Moeka, the organizer of the WISH Official Event ——Talent Night.
Today, I interviewed Yuna (CMS 2nd year/9th floor) who participated as a singer-songwriter!

Yuna has been in the light music club since she was a middle school student, and now still active as a very talented singer-songwriter who can compose and arrange songs by herself.
I asked Yuna about her impressions of the event and the appeal of WISH in detail!

[Importance of taking on challenges]

-Thank you for your time today! Please tell us how you got involved in the Talent Night.

The main reason is that I'm thinking of becoming a singer-songwriter as one of my future paths, and I hope more people will listen to my songs! Besides, I haven't had a chance to perform in public until now, so this time I took the courage to participate to overcome my nervousness.

-I see. Congratulations on the runner-up! How was it when you participated?

Thank you! Thanks to the event, I was able to meet the dormitory students who are playing music at WISH, and the event drew large audiences on Zoom than I expected, which became a valuable experience. I realized once again that there are various dormitory students in WISH.

When most of the events are online, I often end up on the spot, but I was very happy to have a connection with the dormitory students. I am grateful that the RAs planned such an event for us.

-I'm glad you were pleased! What are the meanings of the song title and lyrics of "Shîne"?

That song was made last winter, and it was frustrating that I couldn't do anything because of the pandemic. When I joined WISH, however, I had many new encounters as well as through a circle, so "shine" as a sense that my life was shining.

Additionally, the circle that I joined is called Shin, so I thought it would be better to pronounce it as "shin". As the French word "shîne" does not read the "e" sound, so the title became "Shîne".

"Shîne" is a song made for new friends at university. However, my high school friends' presence is big for me too. We tend to be estranged from old school friends as we grow up, but I learned to appreciate the people around me since the COVID-19. "Shîne" is quite self-experienced and contains various thoughts as my precious song!

[A place where you always want to come back]

-What does WISH mean to you?

People are very kind here, both the dormitory students and the dormitory staff. It is a warm place where there is someone whenever I come back. Since it is an international dormitory, I gained new values by interacting with international students. I was able to express my feelings to everyone through my favorite music at the Talent Night too.



-Lastly, please give a few words to the dormitory students!

If you want to start something new, I know it takes courage to move forward, you also need to endure fears. Sometimes I'm embarrassed and worried too much about what others think of me, but WISH always gives me strength and reassurance.

When you participate in any events, you will meet great friends that are incomparable to the nervousness, so please join the events and make memories in WISH!

-This is the end of the interview. Thank you for your cooperation, Yuna!

WISH held its first Talent Night online live. Performances by various dormitory students were released on the day, and the event was a great success with more than 100 dormitory students watching on Zoom! Please look forward to the next Talent Night!

*This event was held under thorough infection control measures.



Contributions

Writers



Yuna



Hiromu

Translators



Yui

RA Supporters



Moeka



Asami



Satoshi



Renuka



Yukie



Miho



Rio



Ren