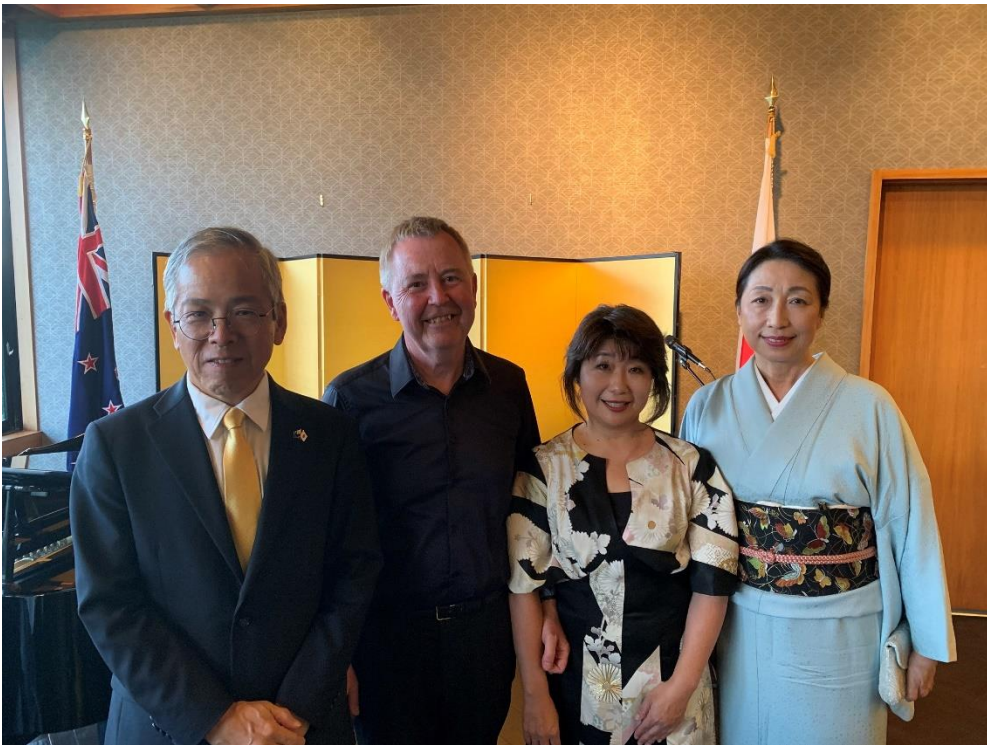


## Japan-New Zealand 70th Anniversary Music Soirée -Celebrating Our Close Diplomatic Ties-

On 17<sup>th</sup> October 2022, the Embassy of Japan in New Zealand organised a Music Soirée at the Ambassador’s Residence to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Japan-New Zealand Diplomatic Relations. On this commemorative occasion, we invited special musicians, virtuoso Japanese Violinist Ms Yuka Eguchi and Pianist Dr Kemp English. Ms Yuka Eguchi has been Assistant Concertmaster for the New Zealand Symphony Orchestra for the last six years. Prior to this, she served as Solo Concertmaster of the Japan Philharmonic Orchestra and Tokyo Mozart Players, as well as a guest Concertmaster throughout Japan. In addition to her commitment to her role at the NZSO, she holds collaborative concerts with Dr Kemp English, one of New Zealand’s leading concert performers and a pianist, mainly around New Zealand.

On this occasion, their duet repertoire included the Japanese and New Zealand national anthems, a traditional Japanese song “Haru no Umi (The Sea in Spring)”, and classical masterpieces. Ms Eguchi’s graceful yet dynamic violin timbre in harmony with Dr English’s mellow piano tune resonated through the Residence, drawing a huge applause from the audience every time they ended a piece. Their performance surely touched the hearts of many guests, including New Zealand parliamentary members, government officials, diplomatic mission representatives, business professionals, academics, sister city groups, and other cultural groups. It was a fitting performance to serve as a cultural bridge between Japan and New Zealand and celebrate our significant milestone year together.





(From left) Ambassador ITO Koichi, Dr Kemp English, Ms Yuka Eguchi, Madam ITO Misako