

**Greetings by Darren Ferguson, CEO and Founder of Beyond Skin,
to the staff of Min-On and MOMRI at the Min-On Culture Center on February 3, 2020**

I bring warm greetings from your global neighbours in Northern Ireland.

My wife, daughter and Beyond Skin family also send their love.

I also bring good wishes from Anne O'Donoghue's family. Anne was a remarkable creative community ambassador in Northern Ireland who died in 2014 after a short illness. It is her legacy fund through the Arts Council of Northern Ireland that is supporting my visit to Japan.

I thank you and your wonderful team for their hospitality and warm welcome.

This is an historic moment I am honoured to be part of. It is as if the universe has felt NOW is the time for Min-On and Beyond Skin to come together to enable shared learning and cultural exchange through music between Japan and Northern Ireland and our global partners.

I have a confession. I did something that people should not do.

I slightly changed the words of a John Lennon song: Imagine.

Would you like to hear it?

"People say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one (making a nod to Mr. Kazuto Ito)

And on this day, we join as us,

to make the world as one."

Together with our bountiful creative imagination within our organisations and the love for music - the impossible becomes possible. Music is the Dialogue.

Darren Ferguson