

## **Elegy for Victims of the Earthquake and the Tsunami Tzedakah of the Heart**

Nobuyuki Tsujii is a concert pianist. Though born blind, he was a co-gold medalist at the Van Cliburn Piano Competition in 2009. In response to his beloved country's earthquake and Tsunami, he composed a very beautiful entitled "Elegy for Victims of the Earthquake and the Tsunami. You can listen to this sensitive piece at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0jumCJS5xo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0jumCJS5xo) .

I was so moved by the haunting melody that I began to work on adapting it to the Kaddish Shalem. With the help of Gabriel Zuckerberg, a Dartmouth student who is studying music composition, Filippo Ciabatti, the conductor for the Dartmouth Symphony Orchestra, and most of all our resident Hazzan Bonnie Kimmelman, we have adapted this Elegy to be prayed at two services. One is at Erev Rosh Hashanah and the other at the conclusion of the Minchah Service immediately following the Chichester Psalms.

I hope that this piece will move you with its simplicity and beauty. The following is one such version done just as one very simple voice, without accompaniment.

May this work inspire not only our deep sense and need for communion with each other and with God. Moreover, may it inspire us to reflect on what we can do in the aftermath of the most recent natural disasters and those that will surely follow so that we may play our part to relieve the physical suffering of those so tragically affected by them.