Expressionsof Japanese and Balinese Spirit Through Koto and Gamelan

UMD Koto Ensemble
UMD Gamelan Saraswati

Friday, December 7, 2012 . 8PM
Ina & Jack Kay Theatre

THE MIGHTY SOUND OF MARYLAND MARCHING BAND

Drumline
Christian Abbott
Eric Alexander,
Squad Leader
Rajinder Bajwa,
Squad Leader
Julian Borelli,
Squad Leader
Maxwell Coleman
Dennis Creggan
Andrew Creighton
Samuel Gaffigan
Joe Glowacki
Jeremy Griffith
Vincent Gruse
Rebecca Haas
Kenneth Halter
Mary Kendig
Thomas Landis
Casey McCrea
Andrea McDowell
James Meade
Laura Michelotti
Justin Miller
Johnathan Mullins
Nicholas Papavizas,
Squad Leader
Jennifer Reukauf
Zara Simpson
Cody Toothaker
Robert Toth
Marissa Troiano,
Section Leader
Brian Vandegrift
Jason Weinberg
Kathryn Winner

Color Guard
Salma Ali
Briana Aracena Delaney
Caitlin Browne
Tori Buckshaw
Christina deGraft-Johnson
Jordyn Goddard,
Section Leader
Kimberly Hodlin,
Section Leader
Kasey John
Nyambura Mbuguiro
Emily McDermott
Kaliah Miller
Chanvearsna Omkar
Jessica Post,
Squad Leader
Ingrid Sobieski,
Squad Leader
Rebecca Vickers

Dance Team
Kelsey Anderson
Jaclyn Baker
Nicole Burkhalter
Kelly Coons
Candess Correll
Christina Dean
Janey Dike
Samantha Dorfman
Taylor Graham
Bailey Hayek
Katie Ingram
Jenna Klester
Kelly Komorowski
Ashley Krogel
Allison Lowenberg
Olivia Marques
Samantha Mowry
Alexa Nieves
Megan Piluk
Jessica Salmon,
Captain
Molly Schoenfeld
Sydney Sims
Michele Stammm,
Captain
Lea Valentine
Danielle Woodard

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Expressions of Japanese and Balinese Spirit Through Koto and Gamelan

UMD Koto Ensemble
Kyoko Okamoto, director

1) Kaze no Ochiba (Wind and Falling Leaves) Kikushiro Maasaki, Comp., 1960
The composer describes the action of leaves falling in the wind.
1st Koto: Bernadette Butcher, Amy Wai Cheng, Kelly Mann, Kyoko Okamoto, Kelsey Shields, Justin Singer, Kirk Sullivan, Yue Tian
2nd Koto: Sarah Hess, Alexandra Thirumalai, Diane Ye

2) Taka (Falcon) Sawai Tadao, Comp., 1972
The outstanding contemporary koto performer and composer has put into music the emotions he experienced as he watched a falcon soaring in the sky.
1st Koto: Sarah Hess (MUSC129K Class)
2nd Koto: Diane Ye (MUSC129L Advanced Class)

3) Kinshu (Autumn Brocade) Nomura Seiho, Comp., 1970
Gazing at the colorful scenery created by autumn leaves, one is struck by a feeling of sadness. In the stillness, one hears the sounds of insects, the cry of a deer and sees tumbling leaves of the autumn color floating in a stream.

Koto ensemble with bass koto, high register and low register koto parts. Shakuhachi (open-end bamboo flute) part played by high register koto.
1st Koto: Kyle Brady, Izumi Tamanaha**
2nd Koto: Sarah Hess, Diane Ye
Bass Koto: Kyoko Okamoto

4) Aka Tombo (Red Dragon Fly) Sato Yoshihisa, arr., contemporary
School children’s singing songs in medley: Red Dragon Fly, Song of the Cradle and Glow of Sunset.
1st Koto: Kelly Mann, Kyoko Okamoto, Kirk Sullivan, Alexandra Thirumalai*
2nd Koto: Kyle Brady, Sarah Hess, Izumi Tamanaha**
Bass Koto: Diane Ye

5) Aki no Uta (Songs of Autumn) Nomura Seiho, arr., 1965
A medley of children’s songs celebrating autumn: Autumn in the Village; Orchestra of Insects; and Village Festival, drums and pipes sound the joy of the people for a bountiful harvest.
1st Koto: Bernadette Butcher, Amy Chen, Sarah Hess, Kelly Mann, Kyoko Okamoto, Kelsey Shields, Justin Singer, Kirk Sullivan, Alexandra Thirumalai, Yue Tian, Diane Ye
2nd Koto: Kyle Brady, Izumi Tamanaha**

* Graduated from UMD and Member of Washington Toho Koto Society
** Member of Washington Toho Koto Society

INTERMISSION

UMD Gamelan Saraswati
Nyoman Suadin, director

A gamelan is a musical ensemble from Indonesia, typically from the islands of Bali or Java. The word Gamelan (pronounced gah-meh-lan) comes from the Javanese word “gamel,” meaning “to strike” or “to play.”

In Bali, the musical traditions evolved primarily in the context of the multi-faceted ceremonies of Balinese Hindu culture. Performance of music is seen as an offering to the Hindu deities, who are invited down from the heavens to visit the temples during temple ceremonies and other auspicious ritual occasions.

PROGRAM (See Insert)

Approximately 90 minutes, which includes a 10-minute intermission.
Kyoko Okamoto, a native of Japan, graduated from the Kyoto University of Foreign Studies. She is a certified koto teacher of the Ikuta School of Koto in Japan, where she studied with Kazue Ehara of Ashiya. She teaches privately and holds faculty appointments at the University of Maryland and George Mason University. Okamoto's lecture demonstrations have delighted college and community audiences nationwide. She has recorded for film productions by the Smithsonian Institution and National Symphony Orchestra.

In 1973, the University of Maryland opened the course of koto music in Ethnomusicology and Okamoto has been teaching it ever since.

The University of Maryland Koto Ensemble sponsored by the School of Music Division of Musicology and Ethnomusicology is made up of undergraduate, graduate and graduated students of the University of Maryland who are studying or studied the koto under classes (MUSC129K, 129L, and 629K) taught by Kyoko Okamoto each semester at the University of Maryland. Okamoto has been teaching the koto at the University since 1973. In addition, the Ensemble is joined members of the Washington Toho Koto Society, of which Okamoto is the president.

The koto, or 13-string zither, produces an evocative sound recognized in Japanese surveys as the most distinctively Japanese voice in Japan's spectrum of musical instruments. The six-foot-long zither is made of paulownia wood with movable bridges supporting 31 strings that are plucked with three ivory picks worn on the right hand. The left hand also manipulates the strings to create more varied sounds. A Japanese precursor to the koto was found in prehistoric times in Japan, but this more elaborate zither was introduced from China through Korea in the eighth century. In the mid-17th century, the koto moved beyond use by the courtier, priest and scholar to become a popular instrument for the common people.

Gamelan Saraswati
Asif Ahmed, Robin Alonge, Jeremy Ardanuy, Daniel Bannoura, Danielle Buccine, Chelsea Dorsey, Roxana Ferrufino, Alex George, Dulce Hernandez, Robert Huang, Sophia Jafri, Lindsay Kermsie, Emily Knaapen, Helen Luh, Sara Magill, Maressa McCall, Shaiyon Merkel, Jonathan Milburn, Eric Plewinski, Alice Rogers, Hilina Tarekegn, Emily Tsai, Sahar Zadeh

Originally from Tabanan, Bali, I Nyoman Suadin, a musician, composer, dancer, puppeteer and teacher, discovered music and dance as a young child by watching his father participate in the village gamelan and by playing in a children's gamelan. He later received formal training at KOKAR, the National High School for the Performing Arts, in Denpasar. He has traveled throughout the United States and performed with gamelan ensembles since 1988. In addition to directing the University of Maryland ensemble, he teaches at Eastman School of Music and Swarthmore College. He is also the founder and artistic director of Gamelan Mitra Kusuma in Mount Rainier, Maryland.