University of Maryland School of Music Presents

47TH ANNUAL SPRING JAPANESE KOTO CONCERT

April 28, 2019 . 2PM
DEKELBOUM CONCERT HALL
at The Clarice

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND 18 56
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

University of Maryland School of Music presents

47TH ANNUAL SPRING JAPANESE KOTO CONCERT

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND JAPANESE KOTO ENSEMBLE
WASHINGTON TOHO KOTO SOCIETY
Director: Kyoko Okamoto
Assistant Director: Yuriko Gandolfo

WASHINGTON COLLEGE JAPANESE KOTO ENEMBLE
Director: Jon Kenzen McCollum

The performance will last approximately 2 hours
including an intermission of 15 minutes

INTRODUCTION

Introduction and Welcome: J. Lawrence Witzleben, University of Maryland
Greetings from the Embassy of Japan: Representative, Embassy of Japan
Announcer: Jon Kenzen McCollum, Washington College

1) *Shiki no Nihon Koyo* (Japanese Traditional Songs of the Four Seasons).....Akira Morioka, arr. 1981

This is a medley of well-known traditional Japanese songs about the four seasons: *Cherry Blossoms*, *Fireflies*, *Rabbit in the Moon*, and *Counting Song*.

First koto: Manami Arai, Megane Crenshaw, Maiko Daizen, Mai Do, Berkleigh Fadden, Daryl Floyd, Zachary Foss, Yuriko Gandolfo, Tiffany Harris, Toya Jackson, John Martinez, John McRae, Megumi Miyaoka, Keiko O'Rourke, Kyoko Okamoto, Rachel Samelson, Amanda SanMartin, Yo Sasatomi, Priscilla Seah, Seori Stephens, Victoria Visceglia, Helen Yamada, Helen Kimiko Yamada
Second koto: Zainab Abdul-Rahim, Mizuki Hamada, Jackie Lee, Chang Xu Pang, Sachiko Smith
Bass koto: Colin Khem, Cole Sousa
Shakuhachi: Nicholas Mangialardi, Jon Kenzen McCollum
Vocal: Eriko Murray

2) *Hana Ikada* (Flower Petal Raft).....Tadao Sawai, comp. 1968

This duet illustrates rafts of delicate flower petals floating down a clear mountain stream.

First koto: Yuriko Gandolfo
Second koto: Sachiko Smith

3) *Kongoseki* (Diamond) ..... Kengyo Tateyama, comp. 1905

This classical piece features lyrics based on a poem composed by Empress Shouken, in which she first uses a metaphor of polishing diamonds to illuminate how people can achieve great virtue by constantly learning, and then follows with a comparison of how the passage of time on a clock mirrors building life experience.

Koto and vocal: Zainab Abdul-Rahim, Yuriko Gandolfo, Jackie Lee, Keiko O'Rourke, Kyoko Okamoto, Sachiko Smith
Shakuhachi: Nicholas Mangialardi

PROGRAM

4) *Ehigasa ni Yosete* (Parasol) .....Seiho Nomura, arr. 1995

This song depicts a young girl playing with a colorful parasol among butterflies on a sunny spring afternoon. It also includes another well-known children's song, *Toryanse* (Pass Along).

First koto: Zainab Abdul-Rahim, Manami Arai, Megane Crenshaw, Maiko Daizen, Mai Do, Berkleigh Fadden, Daryl Floyd, Zachary Foss, Toya Jackson, John Martinez, John McRae, Megumi Miyaoka, Kyoko Okamoto, Rachel Samelson, Amanda San Martin, Yo Sasatomi, Priscilla Seah, Victoria Visceglia, Helen Yamada, Helen Kimiko Yamada
Second koto: Jackie Lee, Keiko O'Rourke, Chang Xu Pang
Bass koto: Yuriko Gandolfo, Cole Sousa
Sangen: Colin Khem, Sachiko Smith, Seori Stephens
Shakuhachi: Nicholas Mangialardi
Vocal: Eriko Murray

INTERMISSION

5) *Hensokyoku Kyokanoko Musume Dojoji* (The Maiden at Dojoji Temple).....Seiho Nomura, arr. 1965

This is a sankyoku (koto/sangen/shakuhachi) arrangement of a classical Japanese *kabuki* dance with the same title. Various facets of a young maiden in love are depicted in this story, and the maiden ultimately transforms into a demonic serpent when she is consumed by deep hatred for the priest who has rejected her love.

First koto: Yuriko Gandolfo, Mizuki Hamada, Colin Khem, Jackie Lee
Second koto: Tiffany Harris, Keiko O'Rourke, Kyoko Okamoto, Chang Xu Pang
Sangen: Sachiko Smith
Shakuhachi: Nicholas Mangialardi, Jon Kenzen McCollum

6) *Kaze no Katarai* (Conversation of Wind)..... Kicho Takao, comp. 1985

There are multiple words for wind, depending on the season and weather patterns. The composer describes various characteristics of the wind in this five-part (two *koto* parts, bass *koto*, *sangen*, and *shakuhachi*) ensemble.

First koto: Kyoko Okamoto, Chang Xu Pang
Second koto: Yuriko Gandolfo, Jackie Lee
Bass koto: Colin Khem
Sangen: Sachiko Smith
Shakuhachi: Nicholas Mangialardi

7) *Tsuru no Sugomori* (Nesting of the Cranes) ..... traditional *honkyoku*

This piece depicts the life of cranes, from their arrival through the north of Japan to their departure with the newborn birds. This migration symbolizes parents' love for their offspring, the cycle of life, and longevity.

Shakuhachi: Jon Kenzen McCollum

8) *Nami* (Waves) ..... Kikushiro Masaaki, comp. 1976

The blind koto master portrays the sound of waves as they come rolling in from the ocean.

First koto: Zainab Abdul-Rahim, Yuriko Gandolfo, Mizuki Hamada, Jackie Lee, Keiko O'Rourke, Chang Xu Pang, Sachiko Smith, Cole Sousa

Second koto: Maiko Daizen, Tiffany Harris, Toya Jackson, Kyoko Okamoto, Daryl Floyd, Seori Stephens

Bass koto: Colin Khem

Greetings from the Ambassador of Japan

I am delighted to welcome you to the 47th Annual Japanese Spring Koto Recital presented by the University of Maryland Japanese Koto Ensemble and Washington Toho Koto Society.

Koto music is a beloved art form in Japan, evoking for many listeners images of natural seasonal beauty. Spring is a perfect time to enjoy koto music, which brings to mind beautiful cherry blossoms in full bloom and a sense of renewal.

One hundred seven years ago, Japan gifted the United States 3,000 cherry blossom trees. They remain an enduring symbol of the longstanding friendship between our two countries. Like the cherry blossom trees, koto brings the American and Japanese people closer together through music and continues to enrich our friendship.

I commend the members of the Washington Toho Koto Society and the students and faculty at the University of Maryland for their incredible work and dedicated efforts in presenting this annual recital and promoting cultural exchange through koto music. I hope you all enjoy this wonderful occasion.

- Shinsuke J. Sugiyama, Ambassador of Japan

ABOUT THE KOTO

The *Koto,* or "*so,*" produces an evocative sound recognized in Japanese cultural surveys as the most distinctively Japanese voice in Japan's spectrum of musical instruments. The six-foot-long board zither is made of paulownia (*kiri*) wood with movable bridges supporting the thirteen 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 produced in prehistoric times, but this more elaborate zither was introduced from China and Korea by the eighth century. In the mid-seventeenth[h] century, the koto moved beyond use by courtier, priest, and scholar to become a popular instrument.

Today's concert will also feature the *shakuhachi*, an end-blown bamboo flute associated with Zen Buddhism, and the *sangen* or *shamisen*, a three-stringed plucked lute used to accompany many kinds of vocal music and *kabuki* theatre.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND JAPANESE KOTO ENSEMBLE

Manami Arai, Megane Crenshaw, Daryl Floyd, Zachary Foss, John Martinez, Megumi Miyaoka, Chang Xu Pang, Rachel Samelson, Yo Sasatomi, Priscilla Seah, Cole Sousa, Seori Stephens, and Victoria Visceglia.

The performers are students from the University of Maryland Japanese Koto Ensemble classes (MUSC 129K, 129L, 629K, 629L). They are directed by Kyoko Okamoto, a native of Japan, who graduated from Kyoto University of Foreign Studies and is a certified teacher of the Ikuta School of Koto. She has studied with Kazue Ehara of Ashiya, Japan, and has been teaching koto at UMD since 1973.

WASHINGTON TOHO KOTO SOCIETY

Zainab Abdul-Rahim, Maiko Daizen, Yuriko Gandolfo, Mizuki Hamada, Tiffany Harris, Toya Jackson, Colin Khem, Jackie Lee, Nicholas Mangialardi, Keiko O'Rourke, Kyoko Okamoto, Sachiko Smith, Helen Yamada, and Helen Kimiko Yamada.

WASHINGTON COLLEGE JAPANESE KOTO ENSEMBLE

Mai Do, Berkleigh Fadden, John McRae, and Amanda San Martin.

KYOKO OKAMOTO

Okamoto Sensei's lectures and concerts have delighted universities and community audiences nationwide. She has recorded for film productions by the Smithsonian Institution and performed for the film *The Art of the Hyogushi.* Okamoto Sensei also played for the educational film *Pacific Bridge* in 1977. In the same year, she appeared on public television as part of the music series *Music in Harmony,* produced by the National Symphony Orchestra. In addition, Okamoto Sensei has played for Prime Minister Nakasone and the present Emperor of Japan at the Japanese Embassy in 1987 in Washington, DC.

JON KENZEN MCCOLLUM, SHAKUHACHI

Dr. Jon Seicho Kenzen McCollum is an Associate Professor of Music at Washington College and an ongoing Senior Research Fellow with the Armenian Library and Museum of America. He has conducted fieldwork and historical research in North American, Armenia, India, Japan, and China. McCollum is an active professional trombonist and euphoniumist. Dr. McCollum holds a Shihan (Master's) license in *shakuhachi* performance and teaching.

ERIKO TOKURA MURRAY, SOPRANO

A native of Japan, Eriko Tokura Murray began her singing career at the age of 10, performing with the Mizushima Boys and Girls Choir as a soloist. While Ms. Murray was living in Sri Lanka, she sang with the Sri Lanka Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Music Society Colombo, and performed two premier contemporary pieces for “voice and strings” at the official residence of the Sri Lankan President. Since moving to Washington DC in 2010, she has joined the 7 Sopranos production which was invited to sing at Carnegie Hall in 2013. She also founded the Children's “Kodomo Chorus” and produced the Japanese a cappella group “KIMONOdeSisters.” With these groups, Ms. Murray sang at various venues such as George Mason University, the Kennedy Center, and the Embassy of Japan. She has been a music director at Washington Japanese Heritage Center since March 2017.

SACHIKO SMITH, SANGEN

She has studied the koto since 1985 with Kyoko Okamoto and performed with the Washington Toho Koto Society since that time. In 1998, she received the stage name of *Kitagawa Yukiji* for sangen from the Kitagawa School in Tokyo, Japan. She also obtained her teacher’s certificate for sangen in 2001.

PROGRAM COORDINATORS AND HELPERS

Director:	Kyoko Okamoto
Assistant Director:	Yuriko Gandolfo
Stage Crew:	Michelle Amano, Joy Aso, Bo Connor, Soichiro Connor, Benjamin Jackson, Lisa Jaeggi, Grace Kaii, Margaret Kaii-Ziegler, Andrew McCann, Donald Romberger, Stephanie Werning, Aremu Wymes
Kimono Dressers:	Wanda Butler Hardie, Yoshiko Hirota Marut, Eriko Murray, Keiko O’Rourke, Kazumi Oiki, Hideko Uchiyama
Mekuri:	Coco Lei Li
Stage Calligraphy:	Eriko Okamoto
Videographer:	Antonino d’Urzo
Stage Logo and Screens:	Kimie Bond, Gerald King, Paul Okamoto
Program:	Yuriko Gandolfo
Publicity:	Chie Berkley, Toya Jackson, Jill King, Jackie Lee

WASHINGTON TOHO KOTO SOCIETY

President:	Kyoko Okamoto
Vice President:	Sachiko Smith
Treasurer:	Jackie Lee
Recording Secretary:	Colin Khem
Corresponding Secretary:	Yuri Maeda

UPCOMING SCHOOL OF MUSIC PERFORMANCES

DARK FIRE
UMD PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE

MON, APR 29 . 8PM

FREE, NO TICKETS REQUIRED

DEKELBOUM CONCERT HALL

Usually positioned at the back of the orchestra, members of the percussion section move center stage to reveal the colorful, melodic potential of their instruments in this striking concert of contemporary music. This concert will feature a world premiere performance of *Dark Fire for Percussion Quartet* composed by Jonathan Kolm.

OUTDOOR JAZZ SHOWCASE

WED, MAY 1 . 5:30PM

FREE, NO TICKETS REQUIRED

THEATRE COURTYARD

Experience the soulful, syncopated sounds of jazz in this lively outdoor concert. Grab your picnic basket, lawn chairs and blanket and join us for this family favorite featuring classic tunes, plus original works by UMD alumni and current students.

STRAUSS AND FRANK
UMD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

FRI, MAY 10 . 8PM

$25 PUBLIC / $10 STUDENT/YOUTH / UMD STUDENTS FREE

DEKELBOUM CONCERT HALL

Under the baton of interim music director José-Luis Novo, the UMD Symphony Orchestra presents Mozart's Overture to *The Abduction from the Seraglio*, Gabriela Lena Frank's *Three Latin American Dances* and Strauss' *Death and Transfiguration.*

UMWO FEATURING SARAH FRISOF, FLUTE
UMD WIND ORCHESTRA

SAT, MAY 11 . 8PM

$25 PUBLIC / $10 STUDENT/YOUTH / UMD STUDENTS FREE

DEKELBOUM CONCERT HALL

Featuring UMD School of Music flute faculty member Sarah Frisof in two solo works, one of which was written for her. The program also includes a world premiere of *Parades* by prominent composer Stephen Jaffe, commissioned as part of the UMD Wind Orchestra's 10th anniversary celebration.

UMD SCHOOL OF MUSIC ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

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EDWARD MACLARY
Associate Director for Academic Affairs

PATRICK WARFIELD
Associate Director for Graduate Studies and Strategic Initiatives

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CRAIG KIER
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JOSÉ-LUIS NOVO
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TIM POWELL
Interim Director of Jazz Studies

DAVID SALNESS
Director, Chamber Music Activities

MICHAEL VOTTA
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