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40th ANNIVERSARY FESTIVAL

East Asian Vibrancy and Highlights of MFJ Commissions III

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New York City Festival at the Asia Society

February 7th: East Asian Vibrancy – [Purchase Tickets](#)

February 8th: Highlights of MFJ Commissions III – [Purchase Tickets](#)

[New York Brochure](#)

Washington DC at Freer Gallery of Art

February 10th: East Asian Vibrancy – [Reserve Free Tickets](#)

Fukushima City at Fukushima City Concert Hall

March 6th: East Asian Vibrancy

[Fukushima Brochure](#)

Tokyo at Bunka Kaikan Recital Hall

March 7th: Highlights of MFJ Commissions Tokyo

March 8th: East Asian Vibrancy

[Tokyo Brochure](#)

Music From Japan's 40th anniversary will feature cross-cultural collaborations between musicians from Japan, China, Korea and the United States in two concerts at Asia Society, in New York, followed by a tour to Washington DC, Fukushima City and Tokyo. Two unique programs will be presented. The first—**East Asian Vibrancy**—will introduce audience members to traditional and contemporary repertoire for three East Asian

instruments: the Japanese sho, the Korean komungo, and the Chinese pipa. The performers are each known worldwide for their versatility and virtuosity as soloists and ensemble players: **Mayumi Miyata** will perform on sho, **Jin Hi Kim** on komungo and electric komungo, and **Wu Man** on pipa.

The second program—**Highlights of Music From Japan Commissions III**—will feature two world premieres by Japanese composers **Michio Kitazume** and **Yoichi Sugiyama** presented alongside three compositions commissioned by MFJ in previous years. **Highlights of Music From Japan Tokyo** will also feature the new compositions by Kitazume and Sugiyama, alongside a different program of past MFJ commissions and performed by different, Japan-based musicians.

EAST ASIAN VIBRANCY

Three internationally acclaimed traditional instrumentalists from Japan, Korea, and China, will perform contemporary and classical repertoire on their respective instruments as soloists and as a trio. A series of solo works will be followed by a group improvisation and the world premiere of *Unkai (Sea of Clouds)* written by MFJ-commissioned composer **Ned Rothenberg**. **Mayumi Miyata** will perform on Japanese sho, a reedy sounding mouth organ traditionally used in gagaku, the ancient court music of Japan; Chinese-American **Wu Man** will perform on the pipa, a Chinese lute; and Korean-American **Jin Hi Kim** will perform on a Korean zither called the komungo.

Finally, in the interest of enlightening concert-goers, the performance will be preceded by a lecture-demonstration that will give audience members deeper insight into the rich musical heritage of East Asia.

HIGHLIGHTS OF MUSIC FROM JAPAN COMMISSIONS III

To celebrate MFJ's long history of commissioning Japanese and American composers to create new work, two new MFJ commissions will be presented alongside a retrospective of compositions from prior years. The three previous MFJ commissions are: *Oyasuminasai* (Good Night), for mezzo soprano and piano, by **Joji Yuasa**, (US premiere); *Full Moon*, for violin and electronics, composed by Mari Takano and performed by Mari Kimura, a specialist in the performance of pieces with virtuosic extended techniques and computer interactivity; and *Quatuor en hiver* (Quartet in Winter), for violin, viola, cello, and piano by Ichiro Nodaira.

The program also includes the world premiere of two newly commissioned works: *Two verses by Du Fu* for female voice and instruments by Milan-based Japanese composer, conductor and educator **Yoichi Sugiyama**, and *Distances III* for clarinet and cello by Tokyo-based composer **Michio Kitazume**.

These works will be performed by New York's finest interpreters of

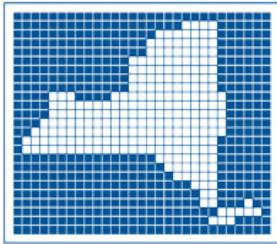
contemporary repertoire—stalwarts of the city's contemporary music scene. The ensemble includes world renowned cellist **Fred Sherry**, violist **Ah Ling Neu**, pianist **Stephen Gosling**, vocalist **Wonjung Kim**, violinists **Eriko Sato** and **Mari Kimura**, and the two-time Grammy Award winning clarinetist **Richard Stoltzman**.

[View the complete program listings!](#)



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