

Ayakano Cathleen Read began studying Yamada School koto music in 1969. She holds the urayurushi, nakayurushi and okuyurushi certificates of performance ability. On January 7, 1974, she became the first non Japanese to join the shachu (musicians' guild) of Nakanoshima Kin'ichi. Cathleen was given the performing name Ayakano. Ayakano's teacher was Ichimura Ayano, a pupil of Nakanoshima Kin'ichi. Ayakano has performed widely in the United States, Japan, and Africa at museums, universities, and concert halls, on radio and television. Ms. Read has a BA from Mount Holyoke College and a Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology from Wesleyan University. She is Adjunct Professor in the Music Department of Tufts University.

Tomoko Graham began playing koto at age 5. She earned the junshihan certificate of performing ability from the Todo-Kaji in Kyoto (Ikuta School) in 1981. Since 1986, she has been studying Yamada School koto with Ayakano. She has extensive experience teaching Japanese in the U.S. at schools including Middlebury, MIT and Noble and Greenough School. She is currently a Preceptor of Japanese at Harvard University. He has a B.A. from Nanzan University in Nagoya, Japan, and has an M.S. in Teaching English as a Second Language from the State University of New York, Albany.

Sachiko Furui is a graduate of Osaka Language School and holds a degree in Economics from Chou University, Tokyo, Japan. Sachiko is the founder and director of Japanese Language Class Boston. In addition to teaching Japanese and playing koto, Ms. Furui is an accomplished artist. She is known for her woodcut prints, such as the series, 100 Views of America, and for her creative use of color and Japanese brush techniques.

Dr. Annette Mizuguchi played the piano and violin while growing up in Long Beach, California. However, it was only recently that she became interested in the koto. She has been studying the koto under Ayakano since 2018 and has been practicing with the kotos belonging to her mother and grandmother. Annette graduated from Tokyo Women's Medical University and is a cardiac anesthesiologist at the Brigham and Women's Hospital.

Dr. Benjamin Persons has a B.A. from Brown University. His M.D. degree is from the University of Alabama. Ben is a Senior Fellow in Rheumatology at Boston Medical Center. Ben's Japanese grandmother was a koto player and he is now in his second year studying koto.

Japanese Traditional and More



Sunday, October 13, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.
Distler Performance Hall

Japanese Traditional and More

featuring Sumie Kaneko, Shu Odamura,
Ralph Samuelson, and Ayakano Cathleen Read

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Distler Performance Hall

Granoff Music Center, Tufts University

PROGRAM

Rokudan

5 koto

Hototogisu

2 koto (honte and kaede) and voice, shamisen and voice, shakuhachi

Higurashi

5 koto

Yugao

Koto and voice, and shamisen and voice

ShinKyoRei

Shakuhachi

Sumie Kaneko and Shu Odamura Duo

Shamisen, koto, voice and guitar

Reception to follow

PERFORMER BIOGRAPHIES

Japanese koto & Shamisen player and Jazz singer/songwriter **Sumie Kaneko** creates music that spans a millennium. A master in the traditional repertoire of these ancient instruments, she has also pioneered their use in jazz and experimental music, through solo and group performances worldwide.

Sumie began playing koto at age 5, by the following year she was appearing on Japanese radio NHK. In 1995 she won the Takasaki International Competition in koto performance. She studied Japanese traditional music at Tokyo National University of the Arts, and in 2006, studied Jazz vocal at Berklee College of Music. She has performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Blue Note NY, TED talk, Regattabar, Getty Center, Boston Ballet, Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Project and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. She has also given workshops at Harvard University, MIT, Princeton University, Wellesley College and Berklee College of Music, among other institutions. In 2014, her group was invited to the Washington, DC Jazz Festival, which is co-sponsored by the Embassy of Japan.

She has collaborated with many world instrumentalists, such as Evan Ziporyn, Kenny Endo, and Kaoru Watanabe, as well as painters, dancers and calligraphers. She has toured internationally in Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Jamaica with Japan Foundation's JAILA program, and every year since 2013 she is invited to Bangladesh, Pakistan from Embassy of Japan. In 2017 February, she returns to Japan Foundation and on tour in Nicaragua and Guatemala with a taiko group On Ensemble.

Shu Odamura is a musician who "resonates with youthful enthusiasm as well as a refined vibe where old world meets contemporary" (Minor 7th). Born and raised in Kyoto, Japan, now the New York-based guitarist and composer has been active as a both collaborator and band leader.

Shu received a scholarship to Berklee College of Music and came to the United States in 2006. During his years in college, he started performing and recording professionally in the New England area. He began focussing on nylon string guitar with unique finger style technique which became his signature voice. He was honored by the 32nd Annual Jazz Station Awards as the third top acoustic guitarist in the world.

Soon after his arrival in New York, he became the music director of Watoku Ueno's shadow puppetry group. He started exploring the possibility of collaborating with artists from different genre.

In 2015 Shu formed his first band, Shu Odamura Trio, with Yoshiki Yamada and Yutaka Uchida. His debut album "Cloud Illusions" was recorded with this band and released on What's New Records. The album was reviewed in *All About Jazz*, *Jazz Life Magazine*, and *Jazz Japan Magazine*. In 2016 Shu started a new band, Jazz Triangle 65-77, along with Haruna Fukazawa and Aki Yamamoto. Jazz Triangle's first album, "Jazz Triangle" was released on What's New Records in 2017. The band has toured in Japan, Thailand and performed at the Blue Note New York and Flushing Town Hall.

Beside his jazz performances, Shu has appeared in several musicals in New York including "Infinite While It Lasts," "Himself and Nora" and "24 hour musicals." He has written music for films, chamber ensembles and big bands.

RALH BIO