

Miyabi Koto's Delivers a Stunning Performance Once Again

Miyabi Koto and Shamisen Ensemble recent performance at Wang Center

Stony Brook, NY: Three weeks ago, musicians Masayo Ishigure, Zac Zinger, and the Miyabi Ensemble performed another one of their showcases of the koto and shamisen at [Charles B. Wang Center](#). A koto is a 13-stringed zither and a shamisen is a 3-stringed traditional Japanese instrument respectively. The performance offered a wide and vivid showcase of what the koto and shamisen can offer within the musical world, with both old traditional and new modern pieces being performed.

Having seen the show, I can proudly say that the performance was beautiful. "Not only was the performance diverse, but also the people within it. For a show about traditional Japanese instruments, you would expect all the musicians to be elderly Japanese people. However, to my surprise, there was not only a decent range of ages, but also ethnicities as there were even western musicians within the ensemble. Thus, not only can the koto and shamisen be enjoyed by the elderly but by a wide demographic of people, myself included. The music is tranquil and soothing at times while also being dynamic."

To show how the music could be enjoyed and performed by anyone, the performances were structured in such a way to show the variety of the craft. The initial piece performed was more mellow and had a soothing tone which then ramped up into a more dynamic and energetic. This was followed up by two solo performances, one for each of the two instruments, showing off not only the skill of individual musicians that played them, but also how each instrument on their own could be elegant, unique and dynamic. Finally, the last piece was a combination of the two, with both instruments being played together. The instruments were completely in sync with one another, making the music sound like a single sound but you could still pick out the distinct characteristics and sound of the koto and shamisen.

About Miyabi Ensemble: [Miyabi Ensemble](#) is a group of musicians, founded by Ms. Masayo Ishigure, who specializes in the use of the koto and shamisen instruments. The musicians of the ensemble come from Sawai Koto Academy, one of the most prominent and well known schools for performing contemporary koto and shamisen music. The aim of the academy is to incorporate the aspects of classical music into more modern genres and thus change the perception of the koto as solely for traditional Japanese music. Their performances not only include traditional performances, but also new and contemporary ways of showing the beauty of the koto and shamisen.

CHARLES B. WANG CENTER | PERFORMANCES

KOTO & SHAMISEN ENSEMBLE

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2022 @ 6:00–7:00 PM | CHARLES B. WANG CENTER THEATRE

PRESENTED BY MASAYO ISHIGURE, ZAC ZINGER, AND MIYABI ENSEMBLE



23
SEPTEMBER
2022

Reserve tickets and RSVP at www.thewangcenter.org

Admission: \$20 (General) / \$15 (Students/Seniors)

Free for children under 5

