

918 BATHURST

SEPT
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thinedgenewmusiccollective



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MIYA MASAOKA
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CELEBRATING
JAPANESE
+ CANADIAN
CONTEMPORARY
AND
EXPERIMENTAL
MUSIC



PROGRAM | CONCERT 2 SEPT 21 8PM

JO KONDO [B.1947]

THREE SONGS OF THE ELDERBERRY TREE [1996]

for violin + percussion

IMPROVISATION

MIYAMA MCQUEEN-TOKITA [BASS KOTO]

YOSHIAKI ONISHI [B.1981]

CULS-DE-SAC (EN PASSACAILLE) [2009, REV 2010/2018]

for string quartet*

INTERMISSION

IMPROVISATION

KO ISHIKAWA [SHŌ]

AMI YAMASAKI [VOICE]

AKIKO NAKAYAMA [‘ALIVE PAINTING’]

*Canadian premiere

GUEST ARTISTS

KO ISHIKAWA [SHŌ]

MIYAMA MCQUEEN-TOKITA [BASS KOTO]

AKIKO NAKAYMA ['ALIVE PAINTING']

AMI YAMASAKI [VOICE]

TENMC PERFORMERS

SUHASHINI ARULANANDAM [VIOLIN]

ILANA WANIUK [VIOLIN]

AYSEL TAGHI-ZADA [VIOLA]

AM AHL ARULANANDAM [CELLO]

NATHAN PETITPAS [PERCUSSION]

JO KONDO [B.1947]

THREE SONGS OF THE ELDERBERRY TREE [1996]

for **violin + percussion**

“ I write down the first note, which can be anything, and then I try to listen to it again and again in my head until the second note appears. Then I write it down, and then I listen to these two notes again and again until the third note comes up. And then, repeating this process, I always go back to the top of the music to find the next note. That means that when I have 150 notes already in succession on my paper, I find number 151 by going back to the top of the piece and listening through from the top to the 150th note to find the next note. That's what I mean by improvisation. ” – **Jo Kondo**

Born in Tokyo in 1947 **Jo Kondo** graduated from the composition department of Tokyo University of Arts in 1972. He spent a year studying in New York on a scholarship from the John D. Rockefeller III Fund in 1977-78. In 1979, he taught as guest lecturer at the University of Victoria, British Columbia, invited by the Canada Council, and in 1986 resided in London as a British Council Senior Fellow. In 1987, he was a composer in residence at Hartt School of Music, Hartford, Connecticut, USA and in 1987 and 2000 he taught at Dartington International Summer School in England. He was a professor at Ochanomizu University in Tokyo and Elisabeth University of Music in Hiroshima for many years. At present, he is a professor at Showa University of Music, Kawasaki, Japan and professor emeritus at Ochanomizu University in Tokyo. In 1980 Kondo founded the Musica Practica Ensemble, a chamber orchestra devoted to contemporary music, and was the artistic director of the group until its disbandment in 1991.

Jo Kondo bio continued...

He has written more than 160 compositions, ranging from solo pieces to orchestral and electronic works, which have been widely performed in Japan, North America, and Europe. These were recorded on Hat Art, Wergo, ALM, Fontec, Deutsche Gramophon, and other labels.

He has received commissions from numerous organizations, ensembles and musicians. His music has been featured at many international music festivals such as the Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival and Maggio Musicale Fiorentino. Performers associated with his music include the conductor Paul Zukofsky, Oliver Knussen, the pianist Satoko Inoue, the Ives and Nieuw Ensembles in the Netherlands, the London Sinfonietta, Birmingham Contemporary Music Group in the UK, and many others.

Kondo has written extensively on musical matters and since 1979 he has published many books explaining in detail his own aesthetic and compositional ideas. He is also an associate editor of the Contemporary Music Review.

He was on the jury of the Gaudeamus International Composer's competition, the Music Competition of Japan, and the Akutagawa Award for young Japanese composers, the Kyoto Prize and so on.

He received the Odaka Prize the best Japanese orchestra work in the year for his orchestra piece "In the Woods" in 1991, and the Nakajima Kenzo Prize for his achievements in the Japanese contemporary music in 2005. Jo Kondo was elected as an honorary member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters in 2012. In 2018, Jo Kondo was awarded "the 68th Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology's Art Encouragement Prize". The Chairman of Japan Society for Contemporary Music The International Society for Contemporary Music – Japanese Section.

MIYAMA MCQUEEN-TOKITA

Miyama McQueen-Tokita is a koto and bass koto player and improviser. Constantly in search for her own style, she fuses ancient traditions with new ideas that are relevant to the music and people of the present day. She performs contemporary works, improvisation and original music, and in addition to performing solo, Miyama regularly plays with such artists as Naoki Kita (vln), Tetsu Saitoh (cb), Bruce Huebner (shakuhachi), Masao Tajima (cb) and Keiki Midorikawa (vc). As her free expressive style gained reputation with a wide audience, she began performing often with artists coming from all around the globe to perform in Japan. She has been invited to perform overseas as a soloist in festivals such as the Powell Street Festival in Canada, Tokyo Jazz Festival, Melbourne International Arts Festival and Mapping Melbourne. Ensembles she has performed as a guest soloist include the Vancouver Intercultural Orchestra, the Australian Art Orchestra and the Japan Philharmonic Orchestra. In recent years she has been putting energy into improvisation and collaborating with young composers from various countries, looking to create music for the koto in a style and soundscape that has never before been explored. In 2015 and 2017 she took part in IMPULS Academy & Festival held in Graz, Austria, as a bass koto performer, where she performed improvisation, and premiered many new works written for bass koto. Miyama has been taught by Satsuki Odamura and Kazue Sawai. She graduated with a Masters in music from the Tokyo University of the Arts, and is a 2018 grantee for the Asian Cultural Council New York Fellowship. Miyama is based in Tokyo, Japan.



YOSHIAKI ONISHI [B.1981]

CULS-DE-SAC (EN PASSACAILLE) [2009, REV 2010/2018]

for string quartet

Written in January 2009, *Culs-de-sac (en passacaille)* was dedicated to the JACK Quartet, and written in honor of the sixty-fifth birthday anniversary of the composer's father, Shinzō Onishi.

Japanese-American composer and conductor **Yoshiaki Onishi** received his doctorate in music composition from Columbia University in New York in 2015. He is currently the Postdoctoral Fellow in Music Composition at the University of Missouri and serves as Assistant Conductor for the Mizzou New Music Ensemble. Noted by a New York Times critic Anthony Tommasini for its "varied, eerily alluring sounds," Onishi's music has been performed worldwide by organizations such as New Japan Philharmonic, JACK Quartet, Ensemble Intercontemporain, AskolSchönberg Ensemble, Klangforum Wien, and Nieuw Ensemble. With his 2010 work *Départ dans...*, Onishi became the laureate of the Gaudeamus Prize 2011. He is named a 2018 Guggenheim Fellow. Other recent honors include the Fromm Commission in 2018 and an artistic residency fellowship from Civitella Ranieri Foundation in Umbertide, Italy. His works are published by Edition Gravis in Berlin, Germany.

As a conductor deeply engaged in promoting the music of today, he is one of the founding members of Ensemble Exophonie Tokyo and currently its Artistic Director/Conductor/Composer Associate. In great demand as a conductor, Onishi is a member of IKTUS+, a collective of musicians initiated by Iktus Percussion Ensemble of New York. Onishi has conducted Nieuw Ensemble, ECCE Ensemble, Talea Ensemble, Wet Ink Ensemble, Yale Philharmonia, Ekmeles Vocal Ensemble, working closely with composers of today.

www.yoshionishi.com



KO ISHIKAWA

Shō player **Ko Ishikawa** has been playing Japanese traditional Gagaku music for 30 years. He is a member of Reigakusha Gagaku Ensemble in Tokyo. He also plays contemporary and experimental music. His performance is widely acclaimed on the national and international scenes. In 2017 he participated in the concerts; 'In a Winter garden' (Stanford University, California), 'Yugenism: Animated Soundscapes of the Japanese Sublime' (London) and 'ISCM World New Music Days 2017' (Vancouver). In 2018 'Europe and the world, a symphony of cultures' (British Museum, London), and 'Salon Tokyo; Bozzini Quartet' (Montreal, Quebec). In 2019 'IMPROV 2; Giorgos Varoutas, Nikos Sidirokastritis and Ko Ishikawa' (Athens). You can listen his shō sound in the album 'async' (2017) by Ryuichi Sakamoto.

AMI YAMASAKI

Ami Yamasaki is a vocalist and interdisciplinary artist from Tokyo. Her work is diverse and prolific, creating installations, performances, and films in a variety of settings. She sings with a skill called echo-location for approaching the sound as a physical phenomenon and currently has just started to work with NOKIA Bell Labs to develop it. She has been trying to create new voices from research about different ways of listening, gathered from various communities outside of Japan. Recent solo and collaborative performances, include: "Winter solstice concert" (2018, Enoura observatory founded by Hiroshi Sugimoto), "Ryuichi Sakamoto at The Stone at The New School"(2018), "CARL STONE, NED ROTHENBERG, AMI YAMASAKI"(2018, ISSUE PROJECT ROOM) "Experimental Intermedia 2017"(w/ Yasunao Tone), "Sounds to Summon the Japanese Gods"(2016, Japan Society of New York), "Signs of Voices" (2016, Kyoto Art Center, Japan). She has participated in numerous group shows, including "Setouchi Triennale 2019"(Japan), "VIVA EXCON 2018 Capiz"(Philippines), "Planting Seed" (2013, ACAC, Japan), and "Sonic City 2013 Liquid Architecture" (2013, RMIT, Australia). She has lead workshops at The National Museum of Art Osaka and Arts Maebashi, as well as a variety of television and film appearances for narration and voice for "MORIBITO II" (NHK, 2017), "My Tyrano: Together, Forever"(2018) and Hayao Miyazaki's latest short film. She presented at TEDx Tokyo in 2016. Asian Cultural Council fellow (2017), Asian Fellow of Asia Center of Japan Foundation (2018). In 2019, she will be invited to The University of Sheffield (UK), The MUSIC UNLIMITED FESTIVAL vol.33 (Austria).

AKIKO NAKAYAMA

Akiko Nakayama (b. 1988) is a painter who depicts the beauty of conveying energy through a variety of media such as installation, photography and performance. Combining the energy of movement and the vibrancy of colours, Akiko Nakayama brings pictures to life. Called 'Alive Painting', Akiko depicts the resonance between shapes and textures by using different types of liquids, each with a unique characteristic. In recent years, She has performed 'Alive Paintings' both Solo & Collaboratively in various cities worldwide such as ARS ELECTORONICA FES (2016) Linz , TEDxHaneda (2015) Japan , DLECTRICITY ART FESTIVAL (2017) US.





THIN EDGE NEW MUSIC COLLECTIVE

TENMC is a Toronto-based ensemble dedicated to ingenuity, and collaboration in the programming and performance of contemporary music. Founded in 2011, TENMC has performed on concert stages across Canada, Italy, Poland, Japan and Argentina with upcoming performances in Greece and Germany. In addition to producing a regular concert series, TENMC has commissioned over 60 works from composers across Canada and beyond. Recent collaborations include "Raging Against the Machine" (RATM), a cultural exchange with Montreal-based Ensemble Paramirabo which toured across Canada in 2015 and 2017, coinciding with the release of a joint album on Vancouver-based Redshift Records and "Balancing on the Edge"(BOTE), a large-scale production integrating theatre, dance, multi-media, new music and new circus, in partnership with 'A Girl In The Sky Productions.' Described as "provocative, thrilling and thought-provoking.." (Musicworks) BOTE was presented at Toronto's 2016 Nuit Blanche festival and in association with Harbourfront Centre's NextSteps Dance Series (November 2016). Thin Edge has established a reputation as "one of Toronto's hottest and bravest new music collectives" (Musical Toronto), and "one of the city's most forward-thinking DIY chamber ensembles" (Mechanical Forest Sound). TENMC is passionately dedicated to supporting their peers through commissioning and performance, striving to bring innovative and eclectic 20th and 21st century music to audiences both existing and as yet untapped.

CHERYL DUVALL [PIANIST/CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR]

Cheryl Duvall is a multifaceted pianist with a penchant for musical risk taking and adventure. She regularly appears as a soloist, collaborative pianist, adjudicator, teacher, producer and panelist and has toured and performed throughout Canada, Japan, Europe, Argentina and the U.S. Cheryl's strong affinity for boundary-pushing and innovative music making led her along with friend and violinist, Ilana Waniuk to co-found the Toronto-based Thin Edge New Music Collective, now in their eighth season. Recently, she was shortlisted as the finalist for the 2016 F.M. Hunter Artist Awards in Music through the Ontario Arts Council and Foundation. She is currently working towards a recording of the complete piano solos by Canadian composer, Anna Höstman and a documentary on the performer/composer relationship, supported by the Canada Council for the Arts and the Ontario Arts Council. Her main teachers and influences include Guy Few, Chris Foley, Midori Koga, Carmen Piazzinni, Nina Tichman, Henri-Paul Sicsic, and Anya Alexeyev.

ILANA WANIUK [VIOLIN/CO-ARTISTIC DIRECTOR]

Ilana Waniuk is a versatile violinist with interests ranging from improvisation to visual arts. Along with pianist Cheryl Duvall, Ilana is a founding member and co-artistic director of Thin Edge New Music Collective. Ilana has performed on concert stages across Canada, Italy, Argentina and most recently Poland and Japan. She has toured Cape Breton and Ontario with the Bicycle Opera Project, performed at Canadian contemporary music festivals including Suoni per Il Popolo in Montreal, Open Ears in Kitchener/Waterloo and the Royal Conservatory's 21C festival (Toronto) as well as with the Madawaska String Quartet, Adam Rudolph's Go Organic Orchestra, and Chicago's Ensemble Dal Niente. She has held artistic residencies at the Banff centre for the Arts, Avaloch Farms Music Institute and been a fellow at the Norfolk Chamber Music Festival New Music Workshop. Ilana was a winner of the 2014 Orford String Quartet Award and most recently is the curator/performer behind 'Filament', an evolving concert program of new works for violin, electronics and multi-media developed with generous support from the SOCAN Foundation, Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council and Arraymusic. Ilana is currently a doctoral student in contemporary performance at the University of California San Diego.

AMAHL ARULANANDAM [CELLO]

With tastes ranging from baroque music to death metal, Toronto-based cellist **Amahl Arulanandam** is known for his musical versatility and ability to adapt to many different genres. Feeling at home in studios, small clubs and large concert-halls, Amahl hopes to convey that musical expression is beyond genres and labels.

A member of Thin Edge New Music Collective since 2017, Amahl has developed a fondness for creating a wide variety of sounds by playing on parts of his cello other than the strings.

SUHASHINI ARULANANDAM [VIOLIN]

Violinist **Suhashini Arulanandam** is a member of the Hamilton Philharmonic and the Windsor Symphony Orchestra. She has been joining TENMC for various programs since 2012. Suhashini is also a Baroque violinist, and has recorded for the Naxos label as part of the historically informed Aradia Ensemble. On modern violin, she can be heard on the Centrediscs label performing chamber music by Canadian composer Peter Togni.

Suhashini is a dedicated teacher specializing in adult learners, and has a private studio of quirky, inquisitive and tenacious violin students.

She has enjoyed a summer of tending her community garden plot, canning produce, and tinkering with her small collection of vintage sewing machines.

TERRY LIM [FLUTES]

Described as “imaginative and magical”, **Terry Lim** is a multifaceted flutist known for musical risk taking and brilliant artistry. He received his Bachelor of Music degree with an international soloist, Lorna Mcghee, at the University of British Columbia and completed his Master of Music degree at New York University with a renowned flutist, Bradley Garner. Terry was also a former faculty member at the UBC Summer Music Institute and New York University. Terry has performed in various music festivals and concert series across North America, including Ottawa International Chamberfest, Stratford Summer Music, Toronto Summer Music Festival, Banff Centre, Redshift Society, Music on Main, New Music Edmonton and Pierre Montoux. He also has been heard on the radio and in concert halls throughout the United States, Canada and Asia, performing at the Chan Center, Kimmel Center, Carnegie Hall, DiMenna Center, Alice Tully Hall, and Merkin Hall. Additionally, as an energetic proponent for chamber and contemporary music, Terry has worked closely with numerous composers and has given several world premieres. Terry is also a member of Toronto-based ensemble, Thin Edge New Music Collective and Charm of Finches.

NATHAN PETITPAS [PERCUSSION]

Percussionist **Nathan Petitpas** is passionate about contemporary music and loves premiering new compositions by living composers. He has been a member of the Thin Edge New Music Collective since 2012 and in this time has had many opportunities to do just that. In recent years he has also formed a percussion and violin duo with violinist Suhashini Arulanandam under the name Duologue.

In his freelance work Nathan has performed with a diverse collection of organizations including the Evergreen Club Contemporary Gamelan Ensemble, Against the Grain, the Windsor Symphony Orchestra, FAWN Chamber Creative, the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, Cirque du Soleil, and many of the GTA's other orchestras. He has also performed in various festivals and concert series including the Internationales Gamelan Musikfestival in Munich, Nuit Blanche Toronto, New Works Edmonton, New Music Calgary, Music on Main (Vancouver), Open Spaces in Victoria, the Music Gallery's X Avant series, and NUMUS.

Nathan has recently undertaken the project of writing and publishing music education materials under the name Dots and Beams. He currently has 2 books in print with 2 more coming in the fall of 2019.

Nathan is an artist endorser of Dream Cymbals and Gongs and Mannion Mallets.

AYSEL TAGHI-ZADA [VIOLA]

Violinist **Aysel Taghi-Zada's** varied career as a staunch proponent of contemporary music has led her to explore a wealth of eclectic repertoire as soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral player. Aysel regularly performs with Tapestry Opera, 21C New Music Festival, New Music Concerts, and is a co-founder of Ensemble Paramirabo, a group that showcases the music of Canadian composers. In her mission to expand contemporary repertoire, she has fostered many working relationships with international composers such as Brian Current, Salvatore Sciarrino and Philip Glass. Aysel holds degrees from McGill University and the Glenn Gould School, where her principal studies were with Jonathan Crow and Barry Shiffman respectively. This performance will be Aysel's Toronto debut performing on viola.

ANTHONY THOMPSON [CLARINETS]

As a freelance clarinetist, **Anthony Thompson** performs with many Toronto-based ensembles. As an orchestral musician, Anthony has appeared with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Toronto Concert Orchestra, and the New Mexico Symphony Orchestra. He has performed under the baton of renowned conductors Leonard Slatkin, Zubin Mehta, Peter Oundjian, Kerry Stratton, and Sir Andrew Davis.

Anthony has a deep passion for contemporary music, performing regularly with many of Canada's premier new music ensembles. He has toured across Canada and parts of Asia with Soundstreams, Continuum Contemporary Music, and the Thin Edge New Music Collective. As a founding member of the Blythwood Winds woodwind quintet, Anthony is also an active chamber musician, performing regularly at many of Toronto's musical and cultural venues.

In addition to his performance career, Anthony has a large private teaching studio. Away from the clarinet, he enjoys spending time with his family, practicing yoga, and triathlon training.



THE CREW

KAI MASAOKA [TECHNICAL DIRECTOR/LIGHTING DESIGN]

Kai Masaoka makes art happen. A maverick of theatre abilities, he oils the wheels of ideas with his skills in sound design and engineering, lighting, rigging, and carpentry at indie theatres and adventurous out of the way venues around Toronto. Known for his love of picnics, Kai fights off theatre scurvy by roaming the city on his blue coaster cruiser bicycle most days the weather is nice.

PAUL HODGE [SOUND DIRECTOR]

Paul Hodge is the Technical Director of the Music Gallery, Toronto, the Centre for Contemporary Music in Canada, also Technical Producer for CBC Radio's Because News and an instructor of Studio and Concert Sound Production for Centennial College's Music Industry Arts Program.. His numerous recordings have been broadcast on City-TV, CBC, BBC Great Britain and NHK Japan and have received the Polaris Prize and a Juno Award. As a member of The Glass Orchestra, an ensemble that performs entirely on glass instruments, he has performed across Asia, North America and Europe. Non-curricular interests include astronomy, parenting and surfing (in alphabetical order).

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