



Pro Musica Nipponia

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Friday, March 6, 2009, 7:30pm

Rolston Recital Hall, Music and Sound Building,
Banff Centre
Banff

Sunday, March 8, 2009, 7:30pm

Boris Roubakine Recital Hall, Craigie Hall,
University of Calgary
Calgary

Wednesday, March 11, 2009, 7:30pm

Convocation Hall,
University of Alberta
Edmonton

Greetings from the Consulate General of Japan at Calgary

What an honour it is to be able to experience the talented works of Pro Musica Nipponia right here in Alberta. I am delighted that these five gifted musicians of traditional and contemporary music join us to display the artistic potential of the people and the traditional instruments of Japan. With such a long-standing reputation, I look forward to being enchanted by our guests from Pro Musica Nipponia. I would like to extend my warmest welcome to them, and thank all those that made this performance possible, including The Japan Foundation, The Banff Centre, University of Calgary, University of Alberta, and Alberta Foundation for the Arts, as well as tonight's spectators.

Yasuo Minemura
Consul General



About the Pro Musica Nipponia

Founded in 1964, Pro Musica Nipponia is a group of leading composers and top-ranked musicians devoted to performing a wide-ranging repertoire of classical and contemporary compositions from both Japan and the West. The group's outstanding feature is that all music is performed on traditional Japanese musical instruments. Established with the intention of devising a vital form of expression based on ancient forms and the instruments linked to traditional aesthetics, Pro Musica Nipponia is simultaneously responsive to the spirit of the present.

In 1978 Nipponia was awarded the Ongaku-no-tomo-sya Prize and the Remy Martin Prize for musical excellence. Miki Minoru's "Kyu-no-Kyoku" (Symphony for Two Worlds) was commissioned by the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra for its bicentennial celebration in 1981, and was first performed by the orchestra and Nipponia with Professor Kurt Masur conducting.

The ensemble's first overseas tour was to Europe in 1972. It has subsequently performed throughout the world, including Southeast Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the USA, Hong Kong, The People's Republic of China, Taiwan and the USSR (now Russia).

Source: www.promusica.or.jp



Musical Program

Please silence cell phones and pagers and refrain from taking photographs or videos during the program. The dancers will be pleased to see you in the lobby at the conclusion of the performance if you wish to take photographs.

Note that the Banff Centre, Craigie Hall and Convocation Hall are smoke-free facilities.

Banff Program

Ikaruga e no Michi / Road to Ikaruga

Composed by Katsutoshi Nagasawa

Kyorai / Recur (Shamisen Solo)

Composed by Seiho Kineya

Shin Yachiyo Jishi / Immortal Lion, Revised

Traditional piece arranged by Pro Musica Nipponia

Aki no Kyoku / Autumn Fantasy (Koto and Shakuhachi)

Composed by Minoru Miki

Satto / Dashing Stomp (Yokobue and Percussion)

Composed by Katsutoshi Nagasawa

Mitsu no Ikkyo no Uta / Three Exotic Songs – *Composed by Takashi Yoshimatsu*

Enka / Distance Song

Koka / Ancient Song

Touka / Dance Song

Calgary Program

Ikaruga e no Michi / Road to Ikaruga

Composed by Katsutoshi Nagasawa

Wa Gakki ni yoru Eizou / Images with Japanese Musical Instruments

Shin Yachiyo Jishi / Immortal Lion, Revised

Traditional piece arranged by Pro Musica Nipponia

INTERMISSION

Jougen no Kyoku / Upper Chord Song (Koto and Shakuhachi)

Composed by Tadao Sawai

Shirabe / Phoneme (Yokobue Solo)

Composed by Seiho Kineya

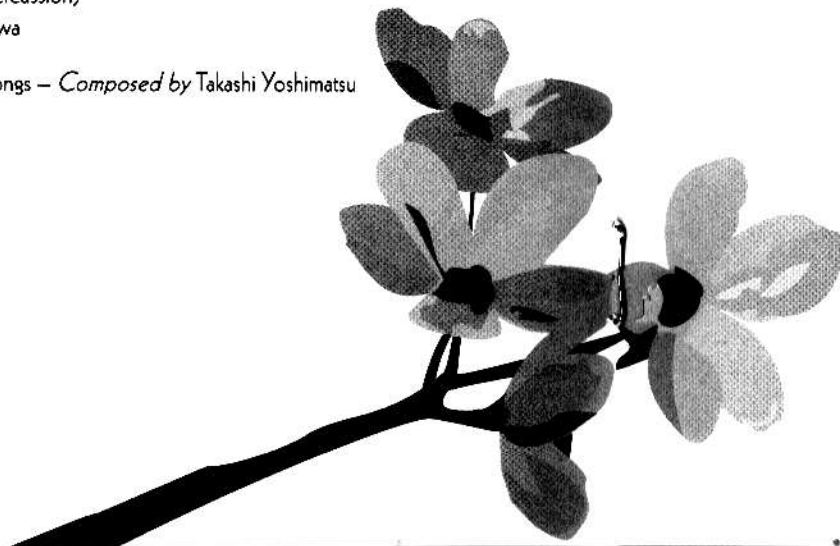
Taiko no Kyoku / Music for Drums (Shamisen and Taiko) – Improvisation

Mitsu no Ikkyo no Uta / Three Exotic Songs – *Composed by Takashi Yoshimatsu*

Enka / Distance Song

Koka / Ancient Song

Touka / Dance Song



Edmonton Program

Ikaruga e no Michi / Road to Ikaruga
Composed by Katsutoshi Nagasawa

Wa Gakki ni yoru Eizou / Images with Japanese Musical Instruments

Shin Yachiyo Jishi / Immortal Lion, Revised
Traditional piece arranged by Pro Musica Nipponia

INTERMISSION

Aki no Kyoku / Autumn Fantasy (Koto and Shakuhachi)
Composed by Minoru Miki

Kyorai / Recur (Shamisen Solo)
Composed by Seiho Kineya

Satto / Dashing Stomp (Yokobue and Percussion)
Composed by Katsutoshi Nagasawa

Mittsu no Ikkyo no Uta / Three Exotic Songs — *Composed by Takashi Yoshimatsu*
Enka / Distance Song
Koka / Ancient Song
Touka / Dance Song

Performers

NISHIKAWA KOHEI,
Yokobue

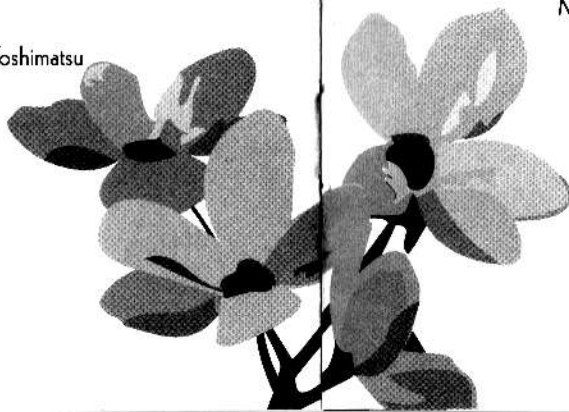
— joined Pro Musica Nipponia as a Japanese flute player after serving as a member of the flute section of the Osaka Philharmonic Orchestra, and as an independent artist in the Kabuki field from 1987–90. Nishikawa's professional activities extend beyond performance, and he directed the music for 'Narrative Play: Tale of Genji' by Setouchi Jakuchō, published a CD album "Flutist from the East" Volumes 1–4, and in 2008 published his third book entitled "Traditional Japanese Music Instruments."

MOTONAGA HIROMU,
Shakuhachi

— born in 1974 in the Yamaguchi prefecture of Japan, Motonaga Hiromu spent his childhood abroad, but was fascinated by Japanese culture. He studied Kinko-ryu under Ohashi Reisei and Sugawara Kuniyoshi and after graduating from Sophia University Foreign Language Department and the NHK Academy for Traditional Japanese Music, started his activities as a musician. Based in Tokyo, Motonaga performed at the Expo Zaragoza 2008 in Spain, Sibiu International Art Festival in Romania, The Essence of Bamboo in Jakarta, APAP at New York, and the World of Shakuhachi Festival 2008 in Sydney as an invited performer.

Official Web Site:

http://web.me.com/motonaga_hiromu/



YAMAZAKI CHIZUKO

Shamisen

— after studying Japanese traditional music Nagauta, Hauta, Minyo, Yamazaki studied modern Japanese music and joined Pro Musica Nipponia. She has performed internationally in Russia, Europe, Asia and South America and with the Korea/China/Japan joint orchestra, 'Orchestra Asia,' around the world. Within Japan, Yamazaki appears in a wide variety of performances, including concerts, musicals, theatre music presentations, television and radio. Yamazaki is a lecturer at Tokyo University of Arts.

YAMADA AKEMI

Koto

— appears in ensembles and as a soloist in modern Japanese music. She also performs 'Bero-dashi Chonma', written by Saito Ryusuke and composed by Miki Minoru, and has given more than 300 performances of the piece all over Japan. As an organizer for 'Akebi Sou no kai', Yamada actively promotes and performs, as well as instructs young performers. Yamada is an instructor at Bunkyo University in addition to being a member of Pro Musica Nipponia.

TADA KEIKO

Percussion

— graduated from Senzoku Gakuen University of Music, Department of Percussion Instruments and also obtained a non-degree Performance Certificate in Japanese Festival Music from the Tokyo University of Arts. Tada has studied Percussion under Okada Tomoyuki, Shida Mitsuko, and Mochizuki Takinojo and currently performs as a percussionist in concerts, operas and recordings. Tada is a member of the Shida Percussion Ensemble as well as Pro Musica Nipponia.

