

77TH SEASON OF

# CONCERTS

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART | MAY 19, 2019





Photo by GION Studio

# PROGRAM

**Yumi Kurosawa, koto**

**Anubrata Chatterjee, tabla**

**Virgil Gadson, dancer**

*Celebrating The Life of Animals in Japanese Art*

**May 19, 2019 | 3:30**

**West Building, West Garden Court**

Traditional Japanese folk song

“Sakura” (Cherry Blossom)

Arr. Yumi Kurosawa

Yumi Kurosawa

*Rapture*

Michiyo Miyagi (1894 – 1956)

*Isuzugawa*

Kengyo Yatsunami (1614 – 1685)

*Rokudan*

Yumi Kurosawa

*JB Transfer*

*OnedayMonday*

*Journey*

Frédéric Chopin (1810 – 1849)

Étude no. 3 in E Major, op. 10

Arr. Yumi Kurosawa

Yumi Kurosawa

*Inner Space*

*Enchantmentica*

*Susanoo*

# THE MUSICIANS

## Yumi Kurosawa

“An inventive, seemingly cosmopolitan composer...Ms. Kurosawa presents her themes gracefully and then undertakes intricate, sometimes adventurous variations, drawing on a timbral palette that ranged from warm and rounded to bright and metallic...chromatic, harplike swirls, fluid chordal figures and alluring bent notes.” Allan Kozinn, *The New York Times*

Born and raised in Japan, Yumi Kurosawa began studying the koto at age three. She received first prize at the National Japanese Koto Competition for students in 1989 and 1992, and a scholarship from the Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japan in 1998. Her extensive performances in Japan have included appearances at Suntory Hall in Tokyo and on NHK Broadcast TV. Since 2002, Kurosawa has been based in New York. She has toured in Canada, Germany, Malaysia, Russia, and the United States.

Kurosawa made her Carnegie Hall debut with Orchestra of the Swan in 2006. In 2011, she was principal soloist in the premiere of Daron Hagen’s koto concerto *Genji* with Orchestra of the Swan in Stratford-upon-Avon. The concerto went on to be performed with the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra and other orchestras. In 2013, Kurosawa was principal soloist for the premiere of *The Memory Stone* at the Houston Grand Opera. In 2015, she premiered the ballet *Tsuru*, for which she was commissioned by the Houston Ballet and the Asia Society Texas, both as a soloist and a composer. That same year, Kurosawa collaborated with Beyoncé dancers Les Twins for a performance at the World Heritage site Kiyomizu-dera, in Kyoto; performed at the World Economic Forum in Dalian, China; and was a soloist for the koto and shakuhachi concerto *FUGAKU*, by Takashi Yoshimatsu, with the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra at Suntory Hall’s opening gala. Kurosawa was a guest artist for the Japanese Connection at the Kennedy Center. She continues to perform in local New York City venues, such as Joe’s Pub, the Highline Ballroom, the Blue Note, the Apollo Theater, and other concert halls. She has released two solo records, *Looking at the Sky* (2015) and *Beginning of a Journey* (2009). She has received praise in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and other prestigious publications.

## Anubrata Chatterjee

Anubrata Chatterjee hails from the finest family of tabla tradition. His father and teacher, the legendary maestro Anindo Chatterjee, has been an ambassador of Indian percussion for more than forty years. Chatterjee has built upon his father’s style and expanded his own repertoire to display an amalgamation of power, grace, skill, and superb tonal clarity.

Internationally, Chatterjee marked his debut with a performance at the BBC, and after that in such venues as Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and the Esplanade Theatre in Singapore. In a memorable concert in Paris, he performed with France’s National Orchestra, and in 2012, he had the privilege to perform in Mumbai for India’s prime minister.

While being deeply rooted in the traditional style of playing, Chatterjee also understands the need for his art to be contemporary. He actively collaborates on projects that are traditional but also New Age, which especially connects with younger audiences. To give more attention to this style, he formed a unique percussion group named Taal-India, which ensures that every region of the country is represented by a percussion instrument.

Chatterjee has also been a part of various fusion bands and has had the opportunity to share a stage with such prominent artists as Shankar Mahadevan, Ranjit Barot, Rahim al Haj, and George Brooks. He has created his own band LayaCurry and Beats & Pieces, which has been well received throughout the world. His collaboration with koto virtuoso Yumi Kurosawa has received global accolades, and Chatterjee himself has been awarded the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Yuva Award for 2016.

## Virgil Gadson

Virgil Gadson is an acclaimed dancer, actor, choreographer, and educator from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He has appeared on *America’s Got Talent* and MTV’s *America’s Best Dance Crew*. He was a finalist on Season 12 of *So You Think You Can Dance*. He has danced alongside Janet Jackson, Travis Scott, and Sam Smith and can be seen in commercials for Disney, Target, Crown Royal, Samsung, Chase Bank, Rush Card, and Timberland.

Gadson has a strong background in theater. In 2014, he was nominated for a Fred Astaire Award for his Broadway debut as a principal dancer/actor in the Tony-nominated show *After Midnight*, starring Dulé Hill, Fantasia Barrino, Patti LaBelle, Tony Braxton, Babyface, K.D. Lang, and Vanessa Williams. He played Graffiti Pete in the encore production of *In the Heights* at the Kennedy Center, starring Vanessa Hudgens and Anthony Ramos.

Although he is known for his hip-hop excellence, he has also integrated a broad spectrum of dance genres into his canon, including modern, jazz, African, ballet, and tap. He has taught master classes at New York University, the University of the Arts, the University of Pennsylvania, and Drexel University. He has been a guest artist at multiple dance conventions, including Titans of Dance, Shake the Ground, and Turn It Up. Gadson has taught many kinds of classes—freestyle training, hip hop grooves, history, and foundation techniques at acclaimed dance studios, such as Broadway Dance Center, Exile Professional Gym, and Millennium Dance Complex.

Gadson is involved in outreach to dance communities locally and internationally, emphasizing the importance of dance history as a vital cultural tradition. He has brought his considerable knowledge of the art to Japan, France, Bermuda, Russia, China, and Canada. He shares his knowledge and passion for dance with the world and especially with the next generation of dancers.

#### **About *The Life of Animals in Japanese Art***

Few cultures have devoted as much artistic energy and genius to the depiction of animals as Japan, where representations of living creatures are ubiquitous in both religious life and the secular realm. *The Life of Animals in Japanese Art* will be the most comprehensive exhibition ever assembled on the subject, and the first to cover the portrayal of animals from the sixth century to the present day in a variety of media — sculpture, painting, lacquerwork, ceramics, metalwork, textile, and woodblock prints. The exhibition will explore diverse attitudes toward creatures both real and imaginary, spiritual and secular, and will include images of animals in various roles, such as messengers of the divine, auspicious motifs, symbols of power, comical or satirical actors, and manifestations of the beauty of the natural world.

*The Life of Animals in Japanese Art* was previously scheduled to open on May 5, 2019. The date was delayed due to the partial government shutdown in January. The exhibition will open on June 2, and run through August 18, 2019.

## PROGRAM NOTES

For today's program, Yumi Kurosawa devised a special collaboration that features her interpretations of traditional Japanese music, Western classical music, and her own compositions, as they represent the relationship of nature and animals to Japan's rich history. In Kurosawa's words:

What are Japan's origins? How did Japan grow and come through its long history? I have selected a few aspects of Japan's great heritage that I want to share with you. They are also linked deeply to my life. We connect to nature strongly, and we are taught to appreciate all aspects of the physical world in our everyday life. I created this program particularly for this concert. It reflects me as an artist, a musician, and who I am as a person.

## Upcoming Events of the Seventy-Seventh Season of The William Nelson Cromwell and F. Lammot Belin Concerts

Unless otherwise noted, concerts are held in the West Building, West Garden Court.

**Kuba Cichocki, piano**

**Bogna Kicinska, vocals**

**Patrick O’Leary, bass**

In collaboration with the Embassy of the Republic of Poland and celebrating the European Month of Culture

May 22, 12:10

### Futurist

Jazz in the Garden

Alternative Modern

May 24, 5:00

Sculpture Garden

### Billy Price

Jazz in the Garden

Blues

May 31, 5:00

Sculpture Garden

### Open Rehearsal: New York Opera Society

*The Evolution of Fools: From Jesters*

*to Buffoons*

Celebrating *Sense of Humor*

June 1, 3:00

### New York Opera Society

*The Evolution of Fools: From Jesters*

*to Buffoons*

Celebrating *Sense of Humor*

June 2, 3:30

## General Information

Admission to the National Gallery of Art and all of its programs is free of charge, except as noted.

The use of cameras or recording equipment during the performance is not allowed.

Please be sure that all portable electronic devices are turned off.

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Concerts are made possible in part through the generosity of donors to the National Gallery of Art through The Circle. Reserved seating is available in recognition of their support. Please contact the development office at (202) 842-6450 or [circle@nga.gov](mailto:circle@nga.gov) for more information.

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cover Suzuki Kiitsu, *One Hundred Animals* (detail), 1843, Catherine and Thomas H. Edson Collection. Image Courtesy San Antonio Museum of Art; photo Peggy Tenison