

Yu Kuwabara

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Profile

Yu Kuwabara (b.1984, Chiba) is a composer, a researcher of Japanese traditional arts, living in Tokyo. She has made music to ask herself who she is. For several years, she has been researching and studying traditional Japanese music, arts and thought to extend as far back as possible to her origins, in order to confirm her own standing. She has collaborated with numerous artists of Japanese art forms including a Rakugo performer Kokontei Shinsuke (Japanese traditional verbal entertainment), Koto performers' groups Tsugukaji-Koto and 4plus (Japanese zither), Japanese Buddhist chant group Shomyo no Kai, Voice of Thousand Years to have investigated her own musical form between the past and the present, and also between Japan and the world.

Her work has been performed by Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, Ensemble SurPlus, Ensemble Phorminx, Ensemble Talea, ensemble mise-en, Stefan Hussong, Toshiya Suzuki, Camilla Hoytenga, Claire Chase, Hidejiro Honjoh and others at major venues in Asia, Europe and U.S. such as Music Competition of Japan (2005, 2006 and 2009, Tokyo), IMPULS Academy reading session by Enno Poppe and Klangforum Wien (2013, Graz) and Padiglione Italia Expo 2015 Milano by Sentieri selvaggi as a finalist of Feeding Music International Composition Competition.

Academic Background

2007-2009

Master's degree in composition at Tokyo University of the Arts (Japan), with Shin Sato and Toshihiko Hisayuki

2003-2007

Majored in composition at Tokyo University of the Arts (Japan), with Shin Sato

Workshops

2016

Academy Voix Nouvelles Foundation Royaumont (Paris, France) with Frédéric Durieux, Pierluigi Billone, Raphaël Cendo and Jean-Philippe Wurtz

2014

International Summer Course for New Music Darmstadt (Darmstadt, Germany) with Lucas Fels, Brian Ferneyhough, Gunnhildur Einarsdóttir, Misato Mochizuki and Clemens Gadenstätter

2013

IMPLUS Academy (Graz, Austria), with Chaya Chernowin and Pierluigi Billone

2010

International Ensemble Modern Academy at Tokyo Wonder Site (Tokyo, Japan), with Toshi Ichianagi and Tristan Murial

2007

Schloss Solitude Summer Academy (Stuttgart, Germany), with Chaya Chernowin, Steven Kazuo Takasugi and Ole Lützw-Holm

2005

International Ensemble Modern Academy at Tokyo Wonder Site (Tokyo, Japan), with Hanspeter Kyburz

Residencies and Competitions

2017

Selection for Lucerne Festival Composer Seminar as an invited composer (Lucerne, Swiss)
Selection for Divertimento Ensemble International Workshop for young composers (Piacenza, Italy)

2016

Selection for Academy Voix Nouvelles Foundation Royaumont (Paris, France)
mise-en ensemble call for scores (New York, U.S.)

2015

Finalist of Feeding Music International Composition Competition to write a piece for Sentieri selvaggi at EXPO Milano 2015 (Milano, Italy)

2013

Selection for Reading Session by Enno Poppe and Klangforum Wien at IMPLUS Academy (Graz, Austria)

2009-2010

Research Residence Program 2009 at Tokyo Wonder Site Aoyama Creator-in-Residence (Tokyo, Japan)

2009

Finalist of The 78th Music Competitions of Japan (Tokyo, Japan)

2007

The Acanthus Music Prize at Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music (Japan)
Selection for Schloss Solitude Summer Academy (Stuttgart, Germany)

2006

Prize-winning work at Stefan Hussong Accordion Workshop Concert (Tokyo, Japan)
Finalist of The 75th Music Competitions of Japan (Tokyo, Japan)

2005

Finalist of The 74th Music Competitions of Japan (Tokyo, Japan)

2004

Winning prize at The 9th Tokyo International Chamber Music Composition Competitions (Tokyo, Japan)

Teaching and Lectures

2017 FEBRUARY 9

Lecture about my music at Japan inter-design forum - JIDF Lab "Jyoshiryoku Lab" - Yu Kuwabara "New Music and Literature" (Tokyo, Japan)

2016 NOVEMBER 25

Lecture about my music at Japan inter-design forum - JIDF Lab "Kotoba Lab" - Yu Kuwabara "Language of New Music" (Tokyo, Japan)

FROM 2015

Teaching position at Junior Composition Course at Yamaha Music Foundation (Chiba and Tochigi, Japan)

2013 JUNE 4

Lecture about my music at the Kunitachi University of Music (Tokyo, Japan)

2012-2015

Teaching position at Toho Gakuen University Music Department (Tokyo, Japan)

2009 OCTOBER 24

Workshop for children "Words = Playing and Greeting with Sounds" at the United Nations University Courtyard (Tokyo, Japan)

2009-2014

Teaching position for composition at Master Class Electone Seminar at Yamaha Music Foundation (Tokyo, Japan)

Commissions

2017

New Work, for and commissioned by Christopher Adler

Tsui no Kohgon, for Shomyo no Kai - Voice of Thousand Years, commissioned by Kanagawa Kenritsu Ongakudo (Kanagawa Prefectural Music Hall) (Kanagawa, Japan)

Ten Voices, for and commissioned by Divertimento Ensemble, written as part of III International Workshop for Young Composers (Piacenza, Italy)

Madera no Dharani (Patched Dharani), for and commissioned by Thomas Piercy (Tokyo, Japan)

Dharani of Strings, for Shungo Mise and Hidejiro Honjoh, commissioned by Shungo Mise (Tokyo, Japan)

2016

Danse à vivre, for and commissioned by Shungo Mise (Tokyo, Japan)

Dharani of Wind, for Claire Chase and Hidejiro Honjoh, commissioned by Hidejiro Honjoh (New York, U.S.)

Three Voices, commissioned by Fondation Royaumont, written as part of Academy Voix Nouvelles 2016 at Fondation Royaumont (Paris, France)

24 Preludes on the name of Michiko Suzuki, for Nocturne #22 In C Sharp Minor, Op. Posth. 2016-17 F/W COLLECTION RUNWAY SHOW, commissioned by Nocturne #22 In C Sharp Minor, Op. Posth. (Tokyo, Japan)

Dharani no Manimani, for and commissioned by ensemble mise-en (New York, U.S.)

2015

Spiral Mandala -Song of Wind and Song of Night-, for and commissioned by Sho-myō no Kai - Voice of Thousand Years (Tokyo, Japan)

Music for Radio Drama "At the Fishing Hole", for and commissioned by NHK Radio Center (Tokyo, Japan)

Pops in Mandolin Orchestra - The Beatles I "Michelle", for and commissioned by Liberté Mandolin Orchestra (Kagoshima and Tokyo, Japan)

Dance of Death b from The Night Music, and Fragment from "Song of Wind, Song of Night", for Sai Ailing, Chiaki Isa, Setsujyo Saito and Hiromi Shinoda, commissioned by Setsujyo Saito (Gunma, Japan)

The Night Music, for Nocturne #22 In C Sharp Minor, Op. Posth. 2015 Full Collection Runway Show, commissioned by Nocturne #22 In C Sharp Minor, Op. Posth. (Tokyo, Japan)

Song of "Wakamurasaki" b, for Sho Sato and Hidejiro Honjoh, commissioned by Gen-no-Oriai (Tokyo, Japan)

2014

Moon Sliding, for and commissioned by Yukino Ichikawa (Tokyo, Japan)

Flowers of Fading, for Kazuo Furuyama and Hanako Nakamura, commissioned by Kazuo Furuyama (Tokyo, Japan)

Toh no Kyoku (Music of A Tower), for Sai Ailing and Hanako Nakamura, commissioned by Setsujyo Saito (Gunma, Japan)

2013

Etudes IV, for and commissioned by 4plus (Tokyo, Japan)

Gamelan from Wind and Stars, for and commissioned by Kiyonori Sokabe and Gaku Yamada (Tokyo, Japan)

Mizukage (Water Shadows), for and commissioned by Esprit Mandolin Orchestra (Tokyo, Japan)

Teri-Mukuri, for and commissioned by Denis Patkovic (Helsinki, Finland)

Transfiguration on The Theme of Morin Khuur, for YMO YNOT 2013 Autumn/Winter Collection Runway Show, commissioned by YMO YNOT (China)

Ruri no Uta, Hoshi no Uta (Song of Stars), for Setsujyo Saito and Hiromi Shinoda, commissioned by Setsujyo Saito (Gunma, Japan)

2012-2016

Music for "Shinkei-Kasanegafuchi", for Kokontei Shinsuke and Awai-Za, commissioned by Studio Iwato, Toyota-city Noh Theater and Kokontei Shinsuke (Tokyo and Aichi, Japan)

2012

Etudes III, for and commissioned by 4plus (Tokyo, Japan)

Song of "Imawa" (Song of The Edge In-between The World and The Next World), for and commissioned by mmm... (Tokyo, Japan)

Yume-Koi-Kaidan (The Ghost Story of Dream Love), for and commissioned by Tsugukaji-KOTO (Tokyo and Kagoshima, Japan)

Matataki no Awai (In-between Time of Flickering of Lights), for and commissioned by Ensemble Muromachi (Tokyo, Japan)

Arabesque, for and commissioned by Go Mochizuki and Kosuke Hashizume (Tokyo, Japan)

2011

Etudes II, for and commissioned by 4plus (Tokyo, Japan)

passacaglia della notte, for Nocturne #22 In C Sharp Minor, Op. Posth. 2012 Spring/Summer Collection Runway Show, commissioned by Nocturne #22 In C Sharp Minor, Op. Posth. (Tokyo, Japan)

Love song IV, for Julien Siguré, commissioned by Kosuke Hashizume (Bruxelles, Belgium)

2010

Dodoitsu Variations, for and commissioned by Denis Patkovic (Helsinki, Finland)

Etudes, for and commissioned by 4plus (Tokyo, Japan)

2009

Aomori Frog, for Yoko Nishi, commissioned by Tokyo Wonder Site (Tokyo, Japan)

Requiem, for Sakezuka Nirvana Ceremony, commissioned by Nichimen-ji Temple (Shizuoka, Japan)

2008

Variation of "Magic Doll" b, for Ryoko Aoki and Yoshiko Sato, commissioned by Kanagawa Kenmin Hall (Kanagawa Prefectural Hall) (Kanagawa, Japan)

Love song II, for and commissioned by Ensemble Phorminx (Darmstadt and Tübingen, Germany)

Doll-Blind, for Toshiya Suzuki and Stefan Hussong, commissioned by Toshiya Suzuki (Tokyo, Japan)

2007

Love song, for Shintaro Ban, Emiko Tanno and Izumi Fujii, commissioned by company izuru (Tokyo, Japan)

2006

lace-race, for and commissioned by MU Gakudan (Tomoki Tai, Hironori Ueda and Manabu Nagasawa) (Shiga, Japan)