

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 EXPO Milano 2015 (Italian pavilion) 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

IMPULS 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 Lützow-Holm

2005

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

Select Residencies and Competitions

2015

Finalist of Feeding Music International Composition Competition at EXPO Milano 2015 (Milano, Italy)

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)

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)

Select Commissions

- Kanagawa Kenritsu Ongakudo (Kanagawa Prefectural Music Hall) (2017, Kanagawa, Japan)
- Divertimento Ensemble, III International Work Shop for Young Composers (2017, Piacenza, Italy)
- Foundation Royaumont, Academy Voix Nouvelles 2016 (2016, Paris, France)
- ensemble mise-en, MISE-EN MUSIC FESTIVAL 2016 (2016, New York, U.S.)
- Nocturne#22 In C Sharp Minor, Op. Posth., Collection Runway Show (2011, 2015 & 2016, Tokyo & Kanagawa, Japan)
- Shomyo no Kai - Voice of Thousand Years, Spiral Shomyo Series Vol.24 (2015, Tokyo, Japan)
- NHK Radio Center (2015, Tokyo, Japan)
- Tokyo Wonder Site (2009, 2010 & 2014, Tokyo, Japan)
- YMO YNOT, 2013 Autumn/Winter Collection Runway Show (2013, China)
- Studio Iwato, Toyota-city Noh Theater and Kokontei Shinsuke (2012-2016, Tokyo & Aichi, Japan)
- Ensemble Muromachi, Ensemble Muromachi Lecture Concert (2012, Tokyo, Japan)
- Denis Patkovic (2010 & 2013, Finland)
- Nichimen-ji Temple, Sakezuka Nirvana Ceremony (2009, Shizuoka, Japan)
- Kanagawa Kenmin Hall (Kanagawa Prefectural Hall), Art Complex (2008, Kanagawa, Japan)
- Ensemble Phorminx (2008, Darmstadt and Tübingen, Germany)
- Toshiya Suzuki, Toshiya Suzuki Recorder Recital (2008, 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 & 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)