

Performers

MATSUMOTO KAORU, soprano

Has graduated from the Department of Vocal Music of the Musashino Academy of Music, as well as completed studies at Nikikai Opera Studio. Matsumoto is a member of Nikikai and Tokyo Chamber Opera Theatre. Has moved to Italy/Germany, where she pursues her studies through various performances in different locations. Besides holding concerts of baroque opera, German vocal music, religious music and similar, she also conducts vocal coaching and choir singing. Japanese nursery songs, school songs and other tunes are in the centre of her frequent performances in recent years. She has released them in a CD compilation entitled "Nihon no jojō – kono michi / Japanese Lyricism – This Path".

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ŌTA TOMOMI, soprano

Has graduated from the Department of Music of the Fukuoka Women's Junior College, where she specialised in vocal music. Ōta continued her studies in Switzerland, Italy and Austria as a student of Konservatorium Wien University. Besides joint performances with Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra, she also has abundant experience of giving soloist concerts of religious music. She has made guest appearances at Mr Ōhara Yasuto's concerts in Düsseldorf, Paris and Madrid. She also conducts school choir singing, engages in charity activities, gives lectures on culture and has released a CD entitled "Priore inori / Inori prayers" on the occasion of her last Berlin visit.

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ŌHARA YASUTO, piano

Has been drawn to piano since he was 3 years old. After his encounter with John Coltrane, he has completely devoted himself to jazz. Ōhara used to be a member of a representative Japanese big band "Sharps and Flats". With his own trio he performed at the Swiss Montreux Jazz Festival twice, in 1997 and 2004. He has rich experience with performing abroad, his European activities in recent years have been remarkable: in 2011 he gave a commemorative concert at the official ceremony celebrating 150 years of friendship between Germany and Japan, in 2013 he performed at the anniversary celebration of 400 years of relations between Japan and Spain, and many others. He is also displaying talent in the research of Japanese music.



♪ **EVENING WITH JAZZ AND** **JAPANESE SONGS** ♪

Club CD, Cankarjev dom
10 July 2014 at 19:00

Organizer:
Embassy of Japan in Slovenia

Program – First Part

Hamachidori / Beach Plovers (1920)

Kashima Meishū (1891–1954) – lyrics / Hirota Ryūtarō (1892–1952) – music

Performed by Matsumoto Kaoru (soprano), Ōhara Yasuto (piano)

Kashima Meishū was at the age of 6 separated from his parents. At the age of 28, he wrote the lyrics of *Hamachidori* by entrusting emotions about his parents to a small bird on the beach.

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Karatachi no hana / Flower of Karatachi-Orange Tree (1925)

Kitahara Hakushū (1885–1942) – lyrics / Yamada Kōsaku (1886–1965) – music

Performed by Matsumoto Kaoru (soprano), Ōhara Yasuto (piano)

Yamada Kōsaku was adopted at a very young age and was working at a printing press while attending evening school. “When having a rough time at the factory, I ran to the Karatachi-orange tree hedge and cried”, he reminisces in his autobiography. His close friend Kitahara Hakushū turned these memories into *Karatachi no hana* lyrics.

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Kōjō no tsuki / The Moon Over the Ruined Castle (1901)

Tsuchii Bansui (1871–1952) – lyrics / Taki Rentarō (1879–1903) – music

Performed by Matsumoto Kaoru (soprano), Ōhara Yasuto (piano)

This song represents fusion of a western melody and lyrics in seven-five syllable meter. While gazing at the moonlit castle ruins, Taki Rentarō set the lyrics to a mysterious melody of rising and falling emotions. The song is also frequently performed abroad.

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Bei Mir Bist Du Schön / To Me You're Beautiful

Ōhara Yasuto (piano)

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Summer Time

Ōhara Yasuto (piano)

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Autumn Leaves

Ōhara Yasuto (piano)

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Dark Eyes

Ōhara Yasuto (piano)

Program – Second Part

Narayama / Narayama (1935)

Kitami Shihoko (1885–1955) – lyrics / Hirai Kōzaburō (1910–2002) – music

Performed by Ōta Tomomi (soprano), Ōhara Yasuto (piano)

Narayama is part of a cycle written in 1920 by the waka poetess Kitami Shihoko near the mausoleum of Princess Iwa in Nara. It is believed she wrote the poem, inspired by her personal hardship, as an expression of love Princess Iwa would have felt toward her husband, Emperor Nintoku. Hirai Kōzaburō has perfected it in unbounded pathetic style with *Gagaku* (ancient imperial court music) profoundness.

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Karamatsu / A Larch Grove (1972)

Nogami Akira (1909–1967) – lyrics / Kobayashi Hideo (1931) – music

Performed by Ōta Tomomi (soprano), Ōhara Yasuto (piano)

Loving the nature of Karuizawa, Nogami Akira was walking alone through its larch forests and amidst the loneliness wrote the 8 verses soaking the listener’s heart with their elegance. After Nogami’s death, his good friend Kobayashi Hideo set the poem to music 25 years after it had been written.

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Hamabe no uta / Song of the Beach (1916)

Hayashi Kōkei (1875–1947) – lyrics / Narita Tamezō (1893–1945) – music

Performed by Ōta Tomomi (soprano), Ōhara Yasuto (piano)

Narita Tamezō sent this *Hamabe no uta* (lyrics with score) as a love letter to a girl studying at the same university, but she has rejected him completely by writing “My heart is already given to someone else”.

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Natsu no omoide / Memories of Summer

Ōhara Yasuto (piano), original

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Amazing Grace

Ōhara Yasuto (piano)

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What a Wonderful World

Ōhara Yasuto (piano)

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Hana (1900)

Takeshima Hagoromo (1872–1967) – lyrics / Taki Rentarō (1879–1903) – music

Performed by Ōta Tomomi / Matsumoto Kaoru (duet), Ōhara Yasuto (piano)

Composed as the first tune of the “Four Seasons” suite, this is a widely renowned choir song, depicting the cherry coloured spring scenery of the Tokyo river Sumidagawa.