



Koto Performance at Friday Night Live at 7pm & 8:30pm on March 1st (Fri), at Rivera Court. She also performs Koto at 3:45pm-4:00pm and Koto Workshop at 2pm-3pm on March 2nd (Sat) in Hina-Matsuri 2019 event.



Ms. Ishigure's thoughts of "IMAGINE JAPAN"

I would like to deliver the beautiful sound of Koto to the audience at DIA. I hope this is a great fun to them.

This is Ms. Ishigure's second appearance at the DIA after her superb performance at the Asian Gallery Opening event in November, 2018. She is a New York based musician who has been playing Koto (Japanese horizontal harp) and Shamisen (three stringed Japanese guitar) professionally for more than 25 years. Even this many years of her carrier, she is excited about playing her Koto music to the people who have never heard of

it before. She said, "I would like to deliver the beautiful sound of Koto to the audience at DIA. I hope the is a great fun to them."

Ms. Masayo Ishigure's Profile

Masayo Ishigure began playing the koto and jiuta shamisen at the age of five in Gifu, Japan and has created an extensive multi-faceted career that continues to stretch the limits of the koto while maintaining a strong grasp of the tradition. After initial studies with Tadao and Kazue Sawai, Masayo became a special research student in 1986 at the Sawai Koto Academy of Music -The academy incorporates many influences from classical to jazz and aims to change the perception of the koto from solely as a traditional Japanese instrument to an instrument of universal expressiveness.

Masayo Ishigure became one of a small group of virtuoso disciples of he Sawais and successfully completed the 33rd Ikusei-kai program sponsored by NHK to foster and train aspiring artists in Japanese music. In 1988, Ms.Ishigure received a degree in Japanese Traditional Music from Takasaki Junior Arts College with a concentration on koto and shamisen.

Ms. Ishigure moved to New York City in 1992 and has performed at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall-Weill Recital Hall, BAM, Merkin Hall,

Asia Society, Japan Society, Metropolitan Museum, Symphony Space and other venues in the New York City metropolitan area. She has been invited to perform at Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia, the Smithsonian Institute, and was a guest artist with the San Diego Symphony, New Haven Symphony Orchestra, Seattle Symphony Orchestra and Hartford Symphony Orchestra.

Masayo Ishigure has appeared in concerts for the World Music Institute, Japan Society, Music from Japan, the China Institute and has participated in music festivals in Japan, Thailand, Brazil, Holland, France, Germany, Mexico, Russia, Belarus, Jamaica, Hawaii South Korea and Alaska. Masayo Ishigure also accompanied several performances by New York City Ballet Principal Dancer Mr. Peter Boal. In 2015, performance at Kennedy Center "MELODY OF JAPAN" 「koto-Opera」

She has been featured in multiple television broadcasts some of which included music for CBS Master Works used during the 1998 Nagano Winter Olympics. She has also recorded koto music for use in several television commercials. In 2005, Masayo Ishigure was a recording artist alongside Yitzhak Perlman, Yo-Yo Ma, and others on the Grammy Award-Winning soundtrack from the movie "Memoirs of a Geisha" by John Williams.

Awarded received " 2016 Consul General's Commendation"

Nominated as "100 Japanese respected by the world" by News Week Magazine in 2017.

In 2016, nominate as "Top 5 female cultural Japanese in New York" by Prime Minister Abe.

In spring of 2018, Masayo held a concert series to celebrate her 25th anniversary of activities in the U.S. She expressed her commitment to the artistic activity in the next decades.

Masayo Ishigure has taught koto and shamisen at Wesleyan University, CT, and has been teaching at Columbia University since 2010 and offers private lessons in New York City, New Jersey Long Island and Washington DC.