



Ensemble East

Yoko Reikano Kimura

koto, shamisen, voice

James Nyoraku Schlefer

shakuhachi

Yoshizawa Kengyô

(1800 - 1872)

Chidori No Kyoku

(The Song of the Plovers)

Seiho Kineya

(1914 - 1996)

Kyorai

James Nyoraku Schlefer

(b. 1956)

Duo No. 2

Traditional Zen Honkyoku

Ifu Sashi

Katsutoshi Nagasawa

(1923 - 2008)

Mutsura-Boshi (The Pleiades)

James Nyoraku Schlefer

Duo No.1

Tuesday, October 21, 2014

8:00 p.m.

Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall

Williamstown, Massachusetts

*Please turn off cell phones.
No photography or recording is permitted.*

James Nyoraku Schlefer is a Grand Master of the shakuhachi and one of only a handful of non-Japanese artists to have achieved this rank. He received the *Dai-Shi-Han* (Grand Master) certificate in 2001, and his second *Shi-Han* certificate in 2008, from the *Mujuan Dojo* in Kyoto. He has performed at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, Tanglewood and BAM, as well as multiple venues across the country and in Japan, Indonesia, Brazil and Europe. Mr. Schlefer first encountered the shakuhachi in 1979, while working towards a career as a flute player and pursuing an advanced degree in musicology at CUNY (Queens College.) Today, he is considered by his colleagues to be one of most influential Western practitioners of this distinctive art form. In February 2014, Concertonet.com gave him the accolade of “America’s finest Shakuhachi player”.

As a composer, Mr. Schlefer has written multiple chamber and orchestral works combining Japanese and Western instruments as well as numerous pieces solely for traditional Japanese instruments. Mr. Schlefer is the Artistic Director of Kyo-Shin-An Arts and the curator for the Japanese music series at the Tenri Cultural Institute in NYC. He teaches shakuhachi at Columbia University, a broad spectrum of Western and World music courses at New York City Technical College (CUNY), and performs and lectures at colleges and universities throughout the United States.

Mr. Schlefer’s composition style draws upon his deep connections to Western classical and rock music, as well as traditional and modern styles of Japanese music. He writes for koto, shamisen, and shakuhachi, with and without Western instruments, combining these instruments with piano trio, string quartet and orchestra. Mr. Schlefer has been commissioned by Orchestra of the Swan, Kyo-Shin-An Arts, the Sartori Ensemble, SONOS Chamber Orchestra and Dancing in the Streets, and Pearson Widrig Dance Theater, with the support of the Mary Flagler Cary Charitable Trust (American Music Center – NewMusic USA) Live Music for Dance Program.

Koto/shamisen performer and singer, Yoko Reikano Kimura has concertized around the world based in the US and Japan. For her koto playing, she was touted as “beautiful” and “genuinely talented” by Hogaku no Tomo. *The New York Times* described her shamisen playing and singing as “superb”. She has graduated from the Tokyo University of the Arts and Music, where she was awarded the top prize for her graduation recital. She continued her studies at the NHK School for Young Professionals and the Institute of Traditional Japanese Music. Also the Agency of Culture Affairs elected her as the internship trainee. Her main teachers include Kono Kameyama, Akiko Nishigata and a Living National Treasure, Senko Yamabiko. Yoko has won numerous awards including the First prize at the prestigious 10th Kenjun Memorial National koto Competition and at the Great Wall International Music Competition. She performed at the Kabuki-za for the play, “Sukeroku” starring Danjuro Ichikawa XII. She is continuing her performances in Japan and holds a teaching position at the Institute of Traditional Japanese Music, an affiliate of Senzoku Gakuen College of Music. Since 2008 she has concertized with her husband, Hikaru Tamaki, cellist under the moniker ‘Duo YUMENO’. Together they were awarded the Janet Latz Professional Fellowship in 2011. As a koto/shamisen soloist, she worked with such artists/musicians as Heiner Goebbels, the Wien Soristen Trio, Kyo-Shin-An Arts, Urbana-Champaign based orchestra the Prairie Ensemble, Kenny Endo, Yasuko Yokoshi among many others. Since 2004, Yoko has toured around the world, performing in such places as Poland, Switzerland, France, Lithuania, Korea, China, Israel, Qatar, Italy, Turkey and the South America.

See music.williams.edu for full details and additional happenings as well as to sign up for the weekly e-newsletters.

Upcoming Events:

Wed Oct 22	12:15pm	MIDWEEKMUSIC	Chapin Hall, stage
Fri Oct 24	8:00pm	Zambezi Marimba Band - Family Days Concert	Chapin Hall
Sat Oct 25	8:00pm	Faculty Recital with Erin Nafziger, soprano	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall
Wed Oct 29	12:15pm	MIDWEEKMUSIC	Chapin Hall, stage
Thu Oct 30	8:00pm	Jeffrey Swann, piano - Visiting Artist Series	Chapin Hall
Fri Oct 31	4:15pm	Piano Master Class with Jeffrey Swann	Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall