

26th KEK Concert Buffet delle Quattro Viole da Gamba

Tsukuba, Friday, April 18, 2008
Lecture Hall first floor of Kenkyu-Honkan at
High Energy Accelerator Research Organization, KEK

Program

Shin'ya Takahashi (1962-)	<i>"On Three Benches"</i> (excerpts) 1997 By a Park Footpath By the Shore of the Pond
J. des Prez (c1440-1521)	<i>Ave Maria</i> 1497?
G.Salvatore (early17c-1688)	<i>Canzone Francese Seconda, del Nono Tuono Naturale</i> 1641
Tsutomu Mizuno (1949-)	<i>"Red Shoes of May"</i> 1989
H. Purcell (1659-1695)	<i>Fantasia No.7</i> Z.742 1680
D. Ortiz (c.1510-71)	<i>Recercada Segunda sobre "Passamezzo Moderno"</i> 1553
D. da Conceição (fl.1695)	<i>Batalha de 5° Tom</i> 1695
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J. S. Bach (1685-1750)	<i>Contrapunctus I</i> from <i>The Art of the Fugue</i> BWV 1080 <i>Aria in a</i> (orig. in c) BWV 590 c1710
Yoko Sato (1971-)	<i>"Sang Hwa"</i> 1999 Hibikiatte / Ame no youni / Tawamurete / Kaze no youni hayaku
P. Leenhouts (1957-)	<i>Report upon "When Shall the Sun Shine?"</i> 1981
Ryohei Hirose (1930-)	<i>"Suite for Noble Cats"</i> 1990 Prelude/ Arietta/ Scherzo Misterioso/ Gavotte/ Gigue

*The program is subject to change.

Yukimi Kambe Viol Consort

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Yukimi Kambe Viol Consort

Under the direction of Ms. Yukimi Kambe, the Yukimi Kambe Viol Consort (YKVC) was organized in 1983 in Tokyo. YKVC performs both European Renaissance music and world contemporary music, actively expressing stylistic diversity. YKVC features creative programming and performance grounded in cultural traditions of both East and West. Its activities include concerts, recordings, broadcasts, educational outreach, "laboratory" for composers, performances for historical dance and for competitions.

Consort members attend festivals and conclaves. In addition to many Japanese tours, YKVC has made two European tours and nine in the U.S.; the most recent one in 2007 was a great success.

The ensemble has released three recordings: "Buffet delle Quattro Viole da Gamba" (YKVC0201) which comprises early works and contemporary Japanese compositions for viol consort, "Foglia d'olivo, Works by Tsutomu Mizuno" (YKVC0302), the first recording ever consisting entirely of viol works by a single contemporary composer, and "Ja, doch BACH mit Gambenconsort" (YKVC0503), an all-Bach Program.

Highlights: the Pan-Pacific Gamba Gathering 2007 in Hawaii, the 2006 North American Tour (*) of eleven American and Canadian cities extended over five weeks, the 2004 American concert tour, the 2002 concert tour (*) and the 1997 concert in Boston; the 2004, 2000 and 1988 concerts at the Viola da Gamba Society of America Conclave in Seattle-Tacoma, Portland and Los Angeles(*); the 1992 concert at the Kyoto International Music Festival (Kenninji Temple); the 1991 concert tour of Paris and eight North German cities; the 1990 joint concert with the New York Consort of Viols at the Berkeley Festival and Exhibition (*); the 1989 performance in "The Funeral of the Emperor Showa" television program in Tokyo and the 1986 and 1984 performances at the first two Composition Contests for Viol Consort Music, organized by the Viola da Gamba Society of Japan in Tokyo. (*) supported by the Japan Foundation

Notice of upcoming concerts:

11 June 2008, Fri. 7pm: "Celebration of Noble Cats", at Ohmigakudoh in Tokyo Opera City.

Autumn 2008: "Exhibition of Viol Music XXIII", with Indian sitar, in Tokyo.

About the Viol

The "viol" or "viola da gamba" is a bowed string instrument held between the legs. Viols were used in the Renaissance and Baroque eras in Europe by the nobility, in church, in court and in family. In contrast, the violin is a member of another family of bowed string instruments, which existed at the same time as viols. Viols were made in three sizes in Italy in the beginning of 16th century, and were bass (big) for lower range, tenor for middle and treble (small) for higher as we do today. Characteristic of the viol is its harmonious sound caused by six or seven strings, tuning and its construction of body. But it was not suitable for Romantic expression in

19th century and therefore was forgotten for a while. At the end of 19th century, it was revived in Europe and blown by the the wind to Japan too. After War II, especially in the 1970s, it began the new performance style of the Early Music in collaboration with musicology.

In 1561 in Japan, viols -violas de arco- brought by the Portuguese missionary Ayres Sanchez for the purpose of supporting the singing of the mass instead of using the organ, the first of which did not arrive in Japan until 1579 or 1580. Viols were used at Christmas, Easter and the Assumption of the Virgin in August. In addition to their use in sacred ceremonies, they were used for secular purposes. After the banquet for feudal lord Otomo Sorin, young seminar students played viols. Oda Nobunaga heard students play viol and admired them at the seminary of Azuchi, where he stopped by after falconry in 1581. Kampaku Hideyoshi granted an audience at Jurakudai to four young diplomats who had visited Rome to meet the Pope, and who played viol and violin in 1591.



Program Notes

On Three Benches (excerpts)

I often sit in a small park near our home. One can meet many kinds of people, see many kinds of things. Each movement of this piece reflects these impressions. The first describes people strolling with their cheerful dogs; the second expresses the peaceful passage of time inspired by waterfowl floating calmly in a pond. These first two movements will be performed today.

Shin'ya

Takahashi

Shin'ya Takahashi was born in Japan in 1962. He attended the Kunitachi College of Music in Tokyo, receiving a bachelor's degree in composition in 1986 and a master's degree in composition in 1988. He is a member of the Japan Federation of Composers.

Ave Maria

Josquin des Prez was active in several parts of Italy and gained wide respect in the same age as Michelangelo and da Vinci. This "Ave Maria" has a variety of textures, including polyphonic sections with imitation in all voices and homophonic sections, as well as five phrases in triple meter. Clear sounds and streams of graceful melody express divine feelings and the warmth emanating from Our Lady.

Canzone Francese seconda

G. Salvatore's Canzona is an early Italian Baroque instrumental piece, consisting of several sections in the manner of a toccata. The first part is entitled "Nono Tuono Naturale" and the following section has the suggestion "Concerto di viole"(consort of viols?). Chromaticism and sharp dissonances express open Latin passion.

Choral "The Red Shoes of May"

"The Red Shoes of May" was composed as a gift to amateur viol players of the American Society. It begins with a calm choral melody, and then the famous Japanese song melody "Red Shoes" appears, but is hidden in divided middle voices. After a lively section a repeat of the choral melody brings the work to a close.

Tsutomu Mizuno

Tsutomu Mizuno graduated from the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music. He is currently a lecturer at Junshin Women's College. He has composed many works for viols, some of them published by the Viola da Gamba Society of Japan and YKVC series.

YKVC recorded them in the CD "Buffet" YKVC 0201 and CD "Foglia d'olivo" YKVC 0302.

Fantasia No. 7

The four-part **Purcell** "Fantasia No.7" was composed on August 19, 1680, when the 21-year old Purcell had already become organist at Westminster Abbey. This was among his last works in an already outmoded style. In them one can view with admiration his genius for imitation, inversion of melodies, and chromaticism. It was Purcell's music which first attracted modern audiences of the last century to the sounds of viols and early music.

YKVC recorded it in the CD "Buffet" YKVC 0201.

Recercada Segunda

D. Ortiz was a Spanish Renaissance composer. The "Recercada No.2" appears in his 1553 viola da gamba instruction treatise. The largest bass sings a deep and rhythmical tune.

Batalha de 5º Tom

Fr. Diego da Conceição was Portuguese composer about whom we know almost nothing. His “Batalha” on the 5th Tone is from “Fr. Roque da Conceicao Livro de Obras de Orgao”, Portugaliae Musica XI, Lisbon, 1967. We follow the tradition of the Portuguese Irmão Aires Sanchez who brought several viols to Japan in 1561 to use in place of the organ to support the vocal Masses.

At that time, battles were frequent. This piece begins with political negotiations, their breakdown, a skirmish, signals of trumpets and drums, commencement of the battle proper, hard fighting and the end. Then you see a pastoral scene. Since the piece has no sections in a minor key, we think it must have been a victorious battle!

Wishing fervently for world peace in the twenty-first century...

YKVC recorded it in the CD “Buffet” YKVC 0201.

Contrapunctus I

“The Art of the Fugue” is a large collection in which **Bach** shows how diverse fugues can be composed from a single theme (written while in Leipzig). Some recent research suggests he may have intended it to be performed on a harpsichord, but since Bach often studied older styles, we think he could have imagined the viol consort sound.

YKVC recorded it in CD “Buffet” YKVC 0201.

Aria

This organ piece *Pastorale* is said to have been composed by **Bach** in Weimar about 1710. We are playing only the third of the four movements. This is an *Aria* written without pedals; its construction is a simple song with accompaniment, a lyrical melody based on a colorful array of chords.

Sang Hwa

With each short movement the listener should see flowers unfolding in overlapping patterns. An Asian feeling emerges from the contemporary usages of early instruments.

Yoko Sato

Yoko Sato graduated from the Tokyo College of Music where she majored in composition, studying with Minoru Miki and Takeo Kudo. Up to the present, she has composed three pieces for viol consort: “Sang Hwa”, “Memory of Trees” and “Ocean Songs”. She serves as Musical Director of ORA-J, an ensemble of Japanese instrumentalists who seek to develop a repertoire of contemporary music for traditional Japanese instruments. She recently completed a Master's degree in composition at the University of Hawai'i, Manoa, where she also studied traditional Asian and Pacific music.

YKVC recorded it in the CD “Buffet” YKVC 0201.

Report upon “When Shall the Sun Shine?”

This is a jazz arrangement for recorder consort based on Stevie Wonder's song “You are the Sunshine of my Life”, composed by **P. Leenhouts** who was a member of the Amsterdam Loeki Stardust Quartet. We have arranged this piece further to suit viols.

Suite for Noble Cats

Though the titles of the different parts are taken from old music, I intended to realize modern expression. For example: I sought cheerful activity in Prelude, loveliness in the Aria, wildness and mystery in the Scherzo, esprit and wit in the Gavotte, and rapid mobility in the Gigue. In fact, all of these qualities are attributes of cats!

Ryouhei Hirose

Ryouhei Hirose graduated from the Tokyo University of Music and Arts. Lately he has concentrated on writing for Western instruments, although he also composes for orchestra, early instruments, and traditional Japanese instruments. He seeks “reaffirmation of human values through music”, and also attaches much importance to communication between performers and audiences. He is currently director of the Research Center for Japanese Traditional Music, Kyoto City University of Arts.

YKVC recorded it in the CD “Buffet” YKVC 0201.