Sixth Form Japan Day

a global perspective, a door to new opportunities

21 November 2008

Westminster Academy, London

John Pearce (2nd Violin)
Born in Bristol, John Pearce started learning the violin at the age of seven and has given solo recitals in Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark and Japan as well as at venues in London including the Royal Festival Hall, St Martin in the Fields and St John's Smith Square.
He has performed live as a soloist on BBC radio and television and given world premieres of works by composers such as Sir Richard Rodney Bennett. He regularly appears as a soloist with orchestras such as The Royal Court Players. He has performed at festivals including the Cheltenham Music Festival, the Cork Jazz Festival and the 'Prussia Cove' music seminars.
John received an award from the Former Parliamentary under Secretary of State for his outstanding contribution to music and was awarded a scholarship at the Royal Academy of Music where he studied with György Pauk and Béla Katona.

Orpha Phelan (noh)
In the year 2000, Orpha Phelan was invited to direct the noh play *Sumidagawa*, the play on which Benjamin Britten based his opera *Curlew River*, as part of the prominent Britten Festival. She has been fascinated by Japanese theatre ever since. Orpha has trained in noh in the USA since 2000 and in 2003 was invited by the Japanese government, on a Japanese Agency for Cultural Affairs fellowship, to further her study of traditional Japanese theatre in Tokyo. There, she had intensive lessons with Kita school noh masters in the dance and chant of noh theatre and the music of the ko-tsuzumi.
Orpha holds workshops in noh theatre in the UK and throughout Europe. She has recently collaborated with Hideki Noda on his contemporary noh play *The Diver* for The Soho Theatre, London and The Setagaya Public Theatre, Tokyo.
Orpha is also an opera director. She has recently directed I *Capuleti e I Montecchi* for Opera North. She will direct this production for Opera Australia at the Sydney Opera House in 2009.

Tomoko Sasaki (1st Violin)
Tomoko Sasaki's studies commenced under Ryosaku Kubota. After graduating from the Toho Gakuen University of Music, Tokyo, she came to London to study with Mayumi Fujikawa in 2002. She finished her post-graduate course at the Royal Academy of Music and also Trinity College of Music. While at Trinity, she was a finalist in the Vivian Joseph Competition and TCM Soloist Competition. As a violinist of the Bomond Trio, she won the first prize in the Beethoven Piano Society of Europe Camber music Competition and Cavatina Chamber Music Prize in 2005. More recently she has been performing as a member of Brunelleschi String Quartet which regularly gives concerts throughout England including St Martin in the Fields, Queens House, Painted Hall, Regent Hall and Dover House.

Umon Tachibana (yose-moji)
Umon Tachibana was born in Itabashi-ku in Tokyo. While studying mechanical engineering at Meiji University, he became interested in rakugo comic story-telling and its related art forms. In 1980 he began the study of yose-moji under Ukon Tachibana and is the last of Ukon's students. He was awarded membership of the Tachibana school in 1993 and given the name 'Umon Tachibana'. He provides yose-moji for signs at the Shinjuku Suehiro Rakugo Theatre and also creates posters, programmes and calligraphy for many other rakugo events. In April 2008, he was sent to the UK as a Special Advisor for Cultural Exchange by the Japanese Agency for Cultural Affairs and has conducted workshops and demonstrations at schools, festivals and other events throughout the country. An exhibition of his work *Yose-moji & the Shaping of Wa* will be held at the Embassy of Japan, 101-105 Piccadilly, London W1J 7JT from9 December 2008 to 30 January 2009 (Mon - Fri, closed 25 Dec - 4 Jan).

Yoshiko Tanaka (kimono)
Yoshiko Tanaka is qualified to dress both men and women in various styles of kimono, both for everyday wear and for formal occasions. She completed the advanced kimono dressing and bridal course at Hiro Kimono Gakuin in 2005. She then went on to qualify as a Toyo Kimono Bunka Kyokai stylist and bridal stylist, later becoming a kimono dressing teacher and bridal assistant. In October 2007, she gave a performance as part of a kimono show held by the Hiro Kimono Gakuin at Osaka Shochiku-za, dressing herself in tome-sode kimono to a musical accompaniment.

Simon Whittaker (aikido)
Simon Whittaker is the Chief Instructor of the Cambridge Aiki Dojo. He began aikido training in 1982; his first sensei was Russel Eberhardt and he later studied under Tony Sargeant. Since then he has trained with the police, becoming an instructor for the PSU (riot squad). In 2005, he was awarded 1on-dan (4th level black belt). He is also professionally engaged in the training and provision of security services, such as close protection and conflict management. As such, he regularly makes use of his aikido knowledge and training in everyday life situations, and will be making reference to this experience during his demonstration.
The Cambridge Aiki Dojo has been running since 1992 and meets regularly at the Kelsey Kerridge sports centre.

Keynote Speakers

Dr Harald Conrad is Sasakawa Lecturer in Japan's Economy and Management at the University of Sheffield's School of East Asian Studies. From 2000 to 2008 he worked in Japan as Research Fellow and Deputy Director of the German Institute for Japanese Studies and Associate Professor at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University. His research focuses on Japanese social policy, human resource management and economic issues related to demographic change. His latest book publications are *The Demographic Challenge - a Handbook about Japan*, Brill 2008 (co-editor and author) and *Human Resource Management In Ageing Societies*, Palgrave 2008 (co-editor and author).

Dr Angus Lockyer was born in Singapore and educated in Dorset, Cambridge, Seattle, and Stanford. He returned to the UK in 2004 and is now Lecturer in Japanese History and Chair of the Japan Research Centre at the School of Oriental & African Studies, University of London, where he teaches course on Japanese, East Asian, and world history. His research interests focus on modernization and modernity in Japan (and elsewhere), from the 18th century to the present. He is completing a project on Japan and exhibitions--recent articles include 'Expo Fascism?' and 'The Logic of Spectacle c. 1970'--and he is beginning two new projects on Japan in the 1930s and the history of Japanese golf.

Workshop Leaders

Motoki Hirai (composer)
Widely acclaimed as one of the most imaginative pianists of his generation, Motoki Hirai appears regularly in the music capitals of Far East, America and Europe as a soloist and recitalist. In the UK he has performed in St. George's, Bristol, and the Wigmore Hall, St John's, Smith Square, and the South Bank Centre in London.
Born into a highly gifted musical family, Motoki studied piano, harmony and counterpoint with his grandfather, the eminent composer Kozaburo Hirai, and violin with his grandmother. Since his first professional appearance at the age of 13 playing his own piano composition to great critical acclaim, Motoki has been highly active in both performance and composition. After reading philosophy and aesthetics at Keio University, Tokyo, Motoki came to London in 1996 to study at the Royal Academy of Music and later at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.
Highlights of the 2008/09 season and beyond include performing piano concertos by Mozart and Beethoven with Czech Virtuosi in Prague and Bruno and recitals at venues such as the Tokyo Bunka Kaikan and the Wigmore Hall in London.
www.motokihirai.com

Joji Hirota (taiko)
Joji Hirota is composer, taiko drummer and percussion player, shakuhachi player and singer. After studying percussion and composition at Kyoto Arts University, he was invited to Europe as the musician (later musical director) with a Japanese theatre company. He then became musical director of The Lindsay Kemp Dance Co which won the Time Out Award for best dance company for their production of *Onnagata* for which he wrote and performed the music.
His compositions are versatile and range from music for theatre to taiko music. Projects have included work with Birmingham repertoire company, Triangle Theatre Co, *Mulan* Theatre Co, Royal Shakespeare Company. His work for television includes the wild life series Survival, BBC dramas, and some commercials and his music is used by television companies worldwide.
He founded *Joji Hirota and his Taiko Drummers* in the early 80s. The group currently has performed all over the world including concerts at WOMAD Sri Lanka, in Belgian, Italy, Spain, Germany, UK, Turkey, Croatia, USA, Australia, New Zealand and more. Most recently *Joji Hirota and his Taiko Drummers* was the opening act for the LIVE EARTH CONCERT at Wembley stadium, 2007, and for the 60th Anniversary of Amnesty International in 2008.
In 2003, Joji Hirota was awarded the Japanese Ambassador's commendation for his contribution to his musical activity outside Japan.

Helen McCarthy (anime)
Helen McCarthy founded and edited the first regular anime newsletter in Britain, ANIME UK, from 1990. This later became the first professional anime magazine in 1991. She writes about anime and manga. Her first book was the 1993 *Anime Movie Guide*. Her most recent publications include *The Anime Encyclopedia: A Guide to Japanese Animation since 1917* (2007 with Jonathan Clements), *500 Essential Anime Movies* (2008) and *Hayao Miyazaki: Master of Japanese Animation: Films, Themes, Artistry*. She recently curated the film season *Osamu Tezuka: Movies into Manga* at the Barbican Cinema and hosts the Japanimation events held regularly at the Cinema. She is currently working on a book about Osamu Tezuka.

Kumiko Mendl (reader)
Kumiko Mendl has worked as an actress, teacher, director and storyteller. She is one of the founding members of Yellow Earth Theatre, the UK's award winning British East Asian Theatre company. She is currently their Education Associate. In 2006 Kumiko Mendl and children's director Vicky Ireland formed *A Thousand Cranes* to bring Japanese stories and culture to UK audiences. Together with Arts Depot they have produced and toured *Tales from Old Japan* and *Milky Way* and are planning a new show exploring story and paper making with Kamishibai - traditional Japanese Paper theatre for 3-5 year olds. Most recently Kumiko read from the books of Satoshi Kitamura for *The Big Picture Party* at the British library.
www.athousandcranes.org.uk

PROGRAMME

11:30	arrival and registration	
12:15 - 12:30	**Welcome & Introduction to the day** *Makoto Hayashi, Embassy of Japan* *Heidi Potter, Japan Society*	Green Room
12:30 - 12:45	**Where next? Japan-related opportunities post 18** *Heidi Potter, Japan Society*	
12:45 -13:30	**How Japan became an economic superpower: historical developments and future challenges** *Dr Harald Conrad, University of Sheffield*	Green Room
13:40 - 14:20	Workshop 1 (in groups as follows)	
	green — anime	Green Room
	pink — anime	Green Room
	yellow — yosemoji	G13
	purple — noh	G15 & G16
	orange — kimono	G11
	blue — taiko	drama studio
14:30 - 15:10	Workshop 2 (in groups as follows)	
	green — noh	G15 & G16
	pink — taiko	drama studio
	yellow — kimono	G11
	purple — aikido	foyer
	orange — yosemoji	G13
	blue — anime	G12
15:10 - 15:40	refreshments view foyer exhibition and discuss university / career options	
15:40 - 16:25	**Mega-cities, broken families, virtual worlds** *Dr Angus Lockyer, School of Oriental & African Studies, University of London*	Green Room
16:35 - 17:15	Workshop 3 (in groups as follows)	
	green — yosemoji	G13
	pink — kimono	G11
	yellow — aikido	foyer
	purple — anime	G12
	orange — taiko	drama studio
	blue — noh	G15 & G16
17:25 - 18:15	**A Suite of Picture Books - Storytelling, Images & Music** *music composed by Motoki Hirai* *reading: Kumiko Mendl* *1st Violin: Tomoko Sasaki* *2nd Violin: John Pearce*	Green Room
18:15 - 18:25	**Closing remarks** *Makoto Hayashi, Embassy of Japan*	
18:30	Leave (some participants) O-bento dinner will be served for those who have booked view exhibition resources and discuss university / career options	
19:30	Leave (everyone else)	