

MEDIA RELEASE

Dr. Shelley Brunt introduces
Enka
(Japanese postwar pop)
@ “Japan in Stereo”

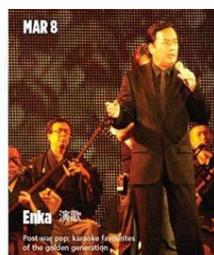
The Japan Foundation, Sydney welcomes Dr. Shelley Brunt on **Friday, March 8** to introduce **Enka (Japanese postwar pop)** at the [Japan in Stereo](#) music listening series.



Anyone who has walked through **downtown Tokyo's drinking alleys after dark** will no doubt recognise the distinctive vibrato of Enka, the **fist-clenchingly sentimental brand of pop** song that boomed in post-war Japan. If you're conjuring up images of a Japanese Roy Orbison, you're on the right track: old school, a little kitsch, and – somehow – strangely cool.

In conversation with series presenter **Zacha Rosen**, RMIT University lecturer and Japanese popular music researcher **Shelley Brunt** introduces some of **her favourite crooners and karaoke classics** from the world of Enka.

Says Shelley Brunt, "This genre is quite different from anything we have in Australia, but **the nostalgia, the soul and the sentimentality** of Enka evoke human emotions we can all relate to, so even if you don't know the language, **there's part of you that just wants to grab a mic and join in.**"



Coming up in **Japan in Stereo:**

Feb 22

Japanese Rock:

You 

Western rhythm and Japanese sound

Prof. Carolyn Stevens, Monash University

Mar 1

Onkyo-ha:

You 

Minimalist electro-acoustic improvisation

Oren Ambarchi, Musician

Mar 8

Enka:

You 

Postwar pop—Karaoke favourites of the golden generation

Dr. Shelley Brunt, Lecturer, RMIT University

Mar 15

Koto:

You 

Traditional Japanese harp

Satsuki Odamura, Musician (plus guests)

Mar 22

Gagaku:

You 

Imperial court music

Lewis Cornwell, Sydney Conservatorium of Music



Dates: Fridays, Feb 22 – Mar 22, 2013

Time: 6.30pm (Doors open 6.00pm) – 8pm

Venue: **Japan Foundation Gallery**
The Japan Foundation, Sydney
L1 Chifley Plaza, 2 Chifley Square,
Sydney

Admission: Free. Bookings Essential.
(Contact reception@jpf.org.au / 02 8239 0055 or book online)

Website: www.jpf.org.au

Audience members can also look forward to **free tastings** of **umeshu** (Japanese fruit liqueur), courtesy of [Choya](http://Choya.com).



ABOUT DR. SHELLEY BRUNT:



[Shelley Brunt's](#) fascination with Japanese popular music began in the 1990s when Australian friends in Tokyo began sending her **mix tapes of the latest hits**, and eventually led her to start **researching Japan's most renowned music-television event**, the annual Red and White Song Contest, which features many of Enka's stars. From 2008 to 2011, Shelley has worked as a presenter and 'world music' industry commentator for Radio New Zealand Concert FM. She currently lectures in Music Industry and Media at RMIT University, Melbourne. A cameo in a TV special celebrating 60 years of the Red and White Song Contest is one of the unofficial highlights of her career.

Shelley Brunt is listed in the [Japan Art Directory in Australia](#).



ABOUT JAPAN IN STEREO:

[Japan in Stereo](#) is a music listening series designed for people who are interested in knowing more about Japanese music but aren't quite sure where to start. Presented by Sydney arts writer and radio producer [Zacha Rosen](#), the series invites **five passionate music aficionados** to introduce their favourite genres of Japanese music through conversation, music, video and live performance. *Japan in Stereo* showcases a wide variety of music, from traditional genres such as **Imperial court music** and the music of the **koto (Japanese harp)**, to contemporary genres such as **minimalist improvisation**, Japanese **classic rock** and sentimental **post-war pop**.

ABOUT THE JAPAN FOUNDATION:

The Japan Foundation aims to promote cultural and intellectual exchange between Japan and other nations through a diverse range of programs and events. The Japan Foundation, Sydney runs a gallery space, library and Japanese language courses for all levels catering from beginner to advanced. The Japan Foundation was established in 1972 with a global network of 23 offices in 21 countries. The Australian office was founded in 1977.

For more information please see www.jpf.org.au or contact:

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