

## MEDIA RELEASE

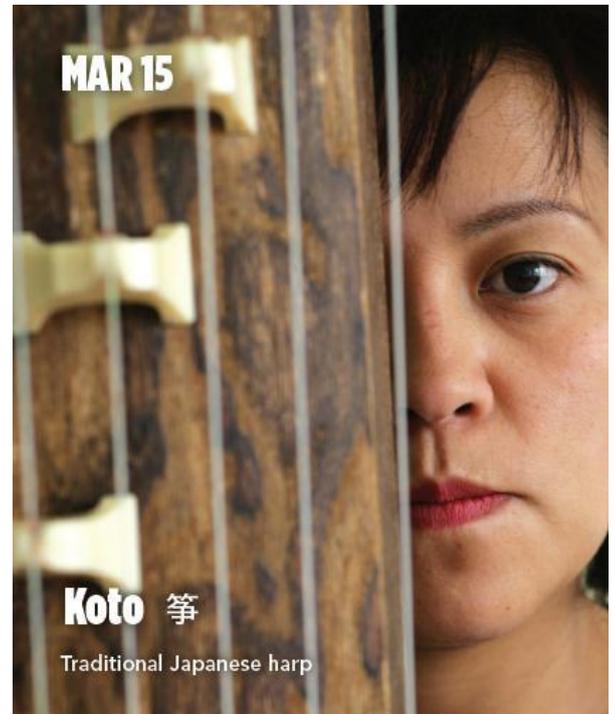
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### Koto Master Satsuki Odamura introduces

the music of the  
**Koto**

@ “Japan in Stereo”

The Japan Foundation, Sydney welcomes master musician **Satsuki Odamura** on **Friday, March 15** to introduce the music of the **Koto** (traditional Japanese harp) at the [Japan in Stereo](#) music listening series.



At times like falling blossoms, at times like a raging waterfall—the unmistakable sound of the koto is compelling in all its guises. In conversation with series presenter **Zacha Rosen**, and accompanied by fellow koto musicians Yuko Yamamoto and Yuka Funabashi, **Sydney-based koto master Satsuki Odamura** provides a rare insight into the history and [music of this enigmatic instrument](#).

This session will include a live three-piece koto ensemble performance by Odamura, Yamamoto and Funabashi.

Says Satsuki Odamura, "For many people, the sound of the koto evokes images of traditional Japan; however, it also has a place in the contemporary music landscape, too. Yuko, Yuka and myself are looking forward to showing the different faces of the koto at Japan in Stereo."



Coming up in **Japan in Stereo:**

- Mar 1**      **Onkyo-ha:**  
      **Minimalist electro-acoustic improvisation**  
Oren Ambarchi, Musician
- Mar 8**      **Enka:**  
      **Postwar pop—Karaoke favourites of the golden generation**  
Dr. Shelley Brunt, Lecturer, RMIT University
- Mar 15**      **Koto:**  
      **Traditional Japanese harp**  
Satsuki Odamura, Musician (plus guests)
- Mar 22**      **Gagaku:**  
      **Imperial court music**  
Lewis Cornwell, Sydney Conservatorium of Music



**Dates:** Fridays, Feb 22 – Mar 22, 2013

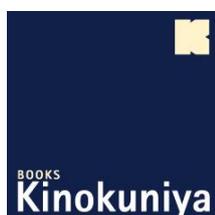
**Time:** 6.30pm (Doors open 6.00pm) – 8pm

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

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

**Website:** [www.jpf.org.au](http://www.jpf.org.au)

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



**Books Kinokuniya** will have a **book stand** at this event, offering *Japan in Stereo* audience members the chance to purchase books on Japanese music with an **exclusive discount of 20% off** the regular retail price.

### ABOUT SATSUKI ODAMURA:



[Satsuki Odamura](#) was taught in Japan by legendary koto players Tadao and Kazue Sawai, and obtained her Master license in 1985. In 1988 she moved to Australia to establish a local branch of the Sawai School, and more recently founded the [Koto Music Institute](#) in Sydney in 2007. Satsuki has collaborated with musicians from a variety of genres, and heads a koto ensemble

which has performed widely in Australia and overseas.

Satsuki Odamura is listed in the [Japan Art Directory in Australia](#).



### ABOUT YUKO YAMAMOTO:

Yuko Yamamoto has been a member of the Satsuki Odamura Koto Ensemble since 2010. As Satsuki's second-in-command, Yuko works closely with Satsuki to promote the Koto Ensemble on the Australian music scene.

### ABOUT YUKA FUNABASHI:

Yuka Funabashi is a member of the Satsuki Odamura Koto Ensemble. Yuka was born in Chiba, Japan, and has been learning the koto from the age of six. Her current teachers are Satsuki Odamura (Sydney) and Kazue Sawai (Tokyo).

### 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.

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For more information please see [www.jpff.org.au](http://www.jpff.org.au) or contact:

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