

MEDIA RELEASE

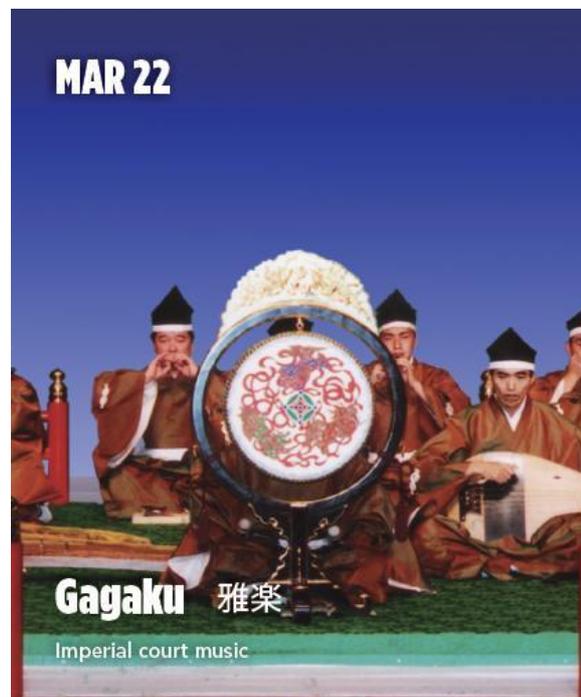
Sydney Conservatorium of Music lecturer
Lewis Cornwell introduces

Gagaku

(Japanese Imperial court music)

@ “Japan in Stereo”

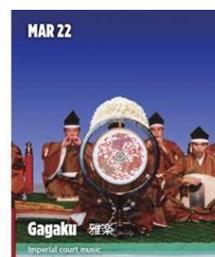
The Japan Foundation, Sydney welcomes Sydney Conservatorium of Music lecturer **Lewis Cornwell** on **Friday, March 22** to introduce **Gagaku** (Japanese Imperial court music) at the [Japan in Stereo](#) music listening series.



Gagaku is **hypnotic, ethereal**, and quite unlike anything you have ever heard before. Dating from at least the 10th century BCE, Gagaku is a type of **ceremonial music** traditionally used in the Japanese Imperial court – **a tradition which endures to this day.**

In conversation with series presenter **Zacha Rosen**, composer and musicologist Lewis Cornwell introduces this **UNESCO-listed musical form**, guiding our ears through [layers of sound](#) to show why gagaku has captivated so many contemporary composers both in Japan and the West.

Says Lewis Cornwell, "In many ways, Gagaku is incredibly different from Western musical traditions. Its inherently fluid sense of time, pitch and tone both **bewilder and enchant the unsuspecting ear.** This is an otherworldly genre that generates **a remarkable and distinctive soundscape.**"



Coming up in **Japan in Stereo**:

Mar 8

Enka:

You  **Tube**

Postwar pop—Karaoke favourites of the golden generation

Dr. Shelley Brunt, Lecturer, RMIT University

Mar 15

Koto: (Booked Out)

You  **Tube**

Traditional Japanese harp

Satsuki Odamura, Musician (plus guests)

Mar 22

Gagaku: (Standing Room available)

You  **Tube**

Imperial court music

Lewis Cornwell, Sydney Conservatorium of Music



Dates:

Fridays, until 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.

Book via: reception@jpf.org.au / 02 8239 0055)

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 LEWIS CORNWELL:



[Lewis Cornwell](#) is a lecturer at the **Sydney Conservatorium of Music** whose research interests include 20th-century Japanese composers. An experienced composer himself, Lewis studied composition with Peter Sculthorpe at the University of Sydney, and was a founding member of the composers' collective Music Performed. His interest in studying and composing new music for traditional Japanese instruments has led to performances of his works in Japan and Europe.

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:

Elicia O'Reilly (02) 8239 0060 / elicia_oreilly@jpf.org.au or

Amanda Thompson (02) 8239 0079 / amanda_thompson@jpf.org.au

Presented by



Supported by



Japan Art Directory in Australia

CHOYA



Japan Foundation, Sydney



@jpfosydney | #japaninstereo