

7/3 FRI
START 19:00
(OPEN 18:15)
@ Asakusa Public Hall

The final concert of the eight-performance series.

The four seasons of Japan and Buenos Aires

A harmonious performance of prayer
featuring Shomyo (Japanese Buddhist chant),
Minyo (Japanese folk music), and a string quartet

Artsist



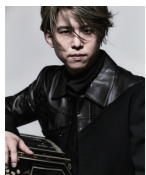
Mao Sone (Piano, Trumpet, Music Director)

Sone started playing classical piano at an early age and began playing the trumpet at age eight. He completed the Berklee Global Jazz Institute's master's program with the highest honors (Summa Cum Laude) in 2016. During his time at Berklee, he studied under giants such as Tiger Okoshi, Danilo Pérez, John Patitucci, Terri Lyne Carrington, and performed at prestigious festivals including Newport, Montreal, Monterey, and Toronto. He won the International Trumpet Guild (ITG) Jazz Improvisation Competition in 2014 and was named a finalist in the prestigious Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition later that year. In 2015, his contribution to community development was acclaimed, and he received an award from Nagareyama-shi, Chiba (Japan). In 2018, Sone moved his base to Tokyo and made his major-label debut with the self-produced double album Infinite Creature (Pony Canyon). In 2022, he released another album, Brightness of the Lives (Reborn Wood). In 2025, he released Eight Little Pieces, a fusion of jazz and large-ensemble music that serves as a culmination of his musical journey to date. The work has been highly acclaimed as a reflection of his musicality.



Sho Asano (Shamisen, Vocals)

Inspired by his grandfather, he took up the Japanese drum at age three, and later began playing the Tsugaru-jamisen at age five. Then he was apprenticed to Sangen Odashimaru Tokuo ODASHIMA, the second. In 2004, when he was 14, Asano was the youngest person to win the highest rank, A-level, at the Tsugaru Shamisen World Convention, winning three consecutive years, 2004 through 2006. As a result of Asano's musical acumen, he was inducted into Tsugaru Shamisen's Hall of Fame. In 2007, he made his major debut for Victor Entertainment at age 17. He continues to perform internationally, holding concerts at the Concertgebouw (Netherlands) and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts (US), as well as international concerts across the United States, Europe, Canada, and Asia. He has collaborated with prestigious artists such as Sayuri Ishikawa, Yosuke Yamashita, Kazufumi Miyazawa, and yama, crossing boundaries between musical genres including Minyo (Japanese folk music), classical, rock, jazz, pop, and flamenco.



Kazuma Miura (Bandoneon)

Miura began playing the bandoneon at age ten. In 2006, he encountered the legendary bandoneon master Nestor Marconi at the Beppu Argerich Music Festival. Consequently, he traveled to Argentina, funding the travel expenses through sales of a self-produced CD, to study under Marconi. Their master-disciple relationship continues to this day. In 2008, he became the first Japanese and the youngest ever to win Second Prize at the International Piazzolla Competition in Castelfidardo, Italy. He received the Idemitsu Music Award in 2014. In 2017, he founded and now leads the chamber orchestra "Tokyo Grand Soloists". In 2022, the group led by Miura, "Kazuma Miura Quintet," released the album "Piazzolla Standard & Beyond" on Nippon Columbia, marking a fitting tribute to Piazzolla's year. He performed the music for the "Taiga Kiko" (travel segment of the NHK historical drama) of "Seiten wo Tsuke". He is widely recognized as one of the most outstanding bandoneon players of his generation.



Naoto Sakiya (Violin)

Winner of the First Prize in the junior division of the Novosibirsk International Violin Competition and Third Prize in the Yehudi Menuhin International Competition for Young Violinists. He entered the Cologne University of Music and Dance as the youngest ever student at the time. Subsequently, he studied at the Paris Regional Conservatory and Soloist Diploma Course of Toho Gakuen School of Music, before completing a master's degree at the Basel Academy of Music. In 2006, he co-founded the Verus String Quartet and served as its principal violinist. The quartet won Third Prizes for the String Quartet division in both the ARD International Music Competition Munich and the Osaka International Chamber Music Competition. He served as concertmaster of the Kanagawa Phil for 8 years. Currently, he is active in a wide range of performances, including solo and chamber music, as well as in the violin duo "DOS DEL FIDDLES" with Yasunao Ishida. Also, he frequently serves as a guest concertmaster with orchestras across Japan. In recent years, he has founded a label, "kKy records," and is engaged in recording projects.



Tomotaka Seki (Violin)

Seki won the First Prize and two Special Prizes in the violin division of the 20th-anniversary Khachaturian International Competition (Armenia) in 2024, becoming the first Japanese to do so in the competition's history. In 2023, he won the Second Prize and two Special Prizes at the Bartok International Competition in Hungary. He also won First Prize at the inaugural Grunewald International Competition in Berlin in 2024. In 2018, he won First Prize in the string section at the 16th Tokyo Music Competition. As a soloist, he has performed with numerous orchestras in Japan and abroad, including the Japan Philharmonic Orchestra, Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, Tokyo City Philharmonic Orchestra, Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, Hungarian Radio Symphony Orchestra, and Armenian National Symphony Orchestra. He graduated from Tokyo College of Music High School and Tokyo College of Music Artist Diploma Course as a special scholarship student. While in school, he was selected as a Fukushima Ikuikai Scholarship student. He was a Rohm Scholarship recipient in 2022 and was a Meigakudo Supported Artist for 2025.



Masaki Shono (Viola)

He began playing the viola at age 14. After graduating from Oita Prefectural Midorigaoka Art High School, he earned his bachelor's degree with highest honors at Senzoku Gakuen College of Music, then completed his master's degree there. He studied under Hiroshi Uchida and Nobuo Okada. He won the Second Prize at the Salzburg-Mozart International Chamber Music Competition. Currently, he is actively engaged in outreach activities and concert planning in Saitama. As a guest principal violist, he has performed with major orchestras throughout Japan, including the Kanagawa Philharmonic Orchestra, the New Japan Philharmonic Orchestra, the Tokyo City Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Kyoto Symphony Orchestra. Also, he participates in a wide range of concerts and recording projects across genres, including tours with Taro Hakase. He is a member of Ishida-gumi, Trio AXIS, and the Subaru 21 String Quartet, and serves as principal solo violist of the RENTARO Chamber Orchestra Kyushu. Since April 2025, he has held the position of musical adviser at Higashimatsuyama City Cultural Center.



Takayoshi Okuizumi (Cello)

Okuizumi is a cellist from Sapporo. After completing his studies at The Music High School attached to the Faculty of Music at Tokyo University of the Arts, he earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Music Trossingen in Germany. From 2007, he spent two years as a contract member of the Bavarian State Opera, where he deepened his artistry. He was selected for the 2006 Overseas Study Program for Artists of the Japanese Government (Agency for Cultural Affairs). After returning to Japan, he served as a lecturer at Ueno Gakuen University until 2016. In recent years, he has been active as a soloist, guest principal cellist with orchestras, chamber musician, and has been active in recording projects.



Kan (Percussion)

Kan is a percussionist from Osaka, Japan, specializing in Brazilian and world music. He was part of Alain Mallet's Grammy-nominated album "A Wake of Sorrows Engulfed in Rage". In 2021, Kan won the Beyond music contest, where he collaborated with Grammy-winning Michael League & Bill Laurence of the band Snarky Puppy. Kan started studying classical percussion at the age of 13. In high school, he discovered a great passion for hand percussion, which led him to move to the US to study hand percussion. Living and performing in NYC, he studied with masters such as Keita Ogawa, Chembo Corniel, Rogerio Boccato, and Sergio Krakowski. Kan graduated from Berklee College of Music in 2020. He performed as a guest musician for the big band led by Ozone Makoto "No Name Horses". Currently, he is based in Tokyo and is expanding his activities globally.

Program

A harmonious performance of prayer featuring Shomyo, Minyo, and a string quartet

- The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires (Piazzolla)
- The Four Seasons of Japan, and more



Kairyu Shomyo Group

Recitation of Buddhist sutras with melody and rhythm called "Shomyo". Originally, the term referred to "studies," but its meaning has shifted to a distinctive style of recitation used in ritual prayer. It has been passed down through rituals; the oldest record dates back to 752, when it is said to have been performed at the consecration ceremony of the Great Buddha of Todai-ji Temple. Its musicality has also evolved; it became the root of many forms of Japanese music, including Heikyoku, Yokyoku (Noh songs), Nagauta, and Minyo (folk songs). Today's Shomyo will be performed by the Shingon sect monks from temples across the Kanto region. Please enjoy the world of Shomyo, the calm resonance of vocals and words that praise the Buddha, which embodies more than a thousand years of history.



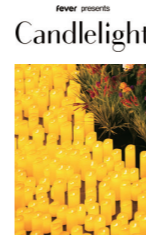
Nao Watanabe (MOONRISE Chief Director)

He worked at a restaurant in Shinjuku for 12 years. Achieved 19 consecutive months as top-ranked store manager nationwide for a national chain. Worked at Deloitte for 14 years. Engaged in accounting audits, IPO support, and venture support. Participated in establishing Deloitte Tohmatsu Venture Support and a new business division within the audit firm. Currently serves as an advisor to Morinaga Confectionery Company's SEE THE SUN and as a supervisor for the general incorporated association FOODFOOD, among other roles as an officer or advisor for multiple companies, primarily in the food industry. Engaged in supporting business creation and new venture development for startups, large corporations, government agencies, and others. In 2025, joined the music agency Moon, which was facing financial difficulties. Led organizational restructuring and business revitalization, creating a project for musicians' global expansion and pioneering international market development. Aims to bridge food and music, planning and promoting international concerts and events.



Kakuko Aoe (Chief priest of Ryokusenji, Representative Director of Shojin Cuisine Association)

Chief priest at Yushimasan Rokusenji Temple, of the Jodo Shinshu East Honganji Sect. Representative of a blind restaurant "Kurayami Gohan (Dinner in the Dark)". He is also a founding member of "Higanji," a site where monks from different sects gather together. He holds an MBA from California State University. As a culinary monk, he promotes food education and eating practices. Also, as a member of the unit "The Three Culinary Monks", he has served meals at events such as "A Dialogue between His Holiness the Dalai Lama and 100 Young Religious Leaders." Some of the significant publications are "Otera Gohan (Temple Meals)" (Discover 21, Inc.), "Otera no Oishi Shojin Gohan (Delicious Shojin Meals Served at the Temple)" (TAKARAJIMASHA, Inc.), and a comic book "Sachi no Otera Gohan (Sachi's Temple Meals)" (Akita Publishing Co., Ltd.). In 2025, he launched an online community called "Hibi no Ichiwan".



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Candlelight®

Candlelight® is a concert series produced by Fever, aiming to democratize access to culture and entertainment. To help more people enjoy classical music casually, it offers a one-of-a-kind experience. Unique stages surrounded by thousands of candles, together with music performed by talented local musicians, create a magical atmosphere. We provide special moments with an immersive musical experience for everyone, including those unfamiliar with classical music. Candlelight® has expanded to more than 150 cities worldwide and is highly rated by millions of customers.

【 Production Credits 】

Organized by Moon Inc. / nakamichi Co., Ltd.

Supported by BIOTOPS INC. / Sana LLC

Candlelight® : Fever

General director : Nao Watanabe

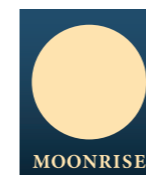
Executive manager : Kakuho Aoe

Stage manager and Lighting designer : Otoya Ametani

Sound engineer : Osaka Onken

Shomyo : Kairyu Shomyo Group

Produced by Moon Inc.



About MOONRISE

Bringing Japanese Music, Culture, and Arts to the World

A comprehensive arts production initiative creating global stages for Japanese musicians.

We promote Japanese aesthetics and talent to the world, centered on music, while collaborating with other genres such as cuisine, traditional culture, fashion, visuals, and technology.

This project is supported by a grant from the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and the Tokyo Convention & Visitors Bureau for the promotion of nighttime tourism.