



Buffet delle Quattro Viole da Gamba

<i>On Three Benches</i> (excerpts) 1997 By a Park Footpath/ By the Shore of the Pond	Shin'ya Takahashi (b.1962)
<i>Ave Maria</i> 1497?	J. de Prez (c.1440-1521)
<i>Canzone Francese Seconda, del Nono Tuono Naturale</i> 1641	G. Salvatore (early 17c-1688)
<i>Choral "Red Shoes of May"</i> 1989 and <i>Catlz</i> (Cat waltz) 1986	Tsutomu Mizuno (b.1949)
<i>In Nomine</i> undated	O. Gibbons (1583-1625)
<i>Fantasia No.7</i> Z742 1680	H. Purcell (1659-1695)
<i>Prelude No.1</i> from <i>The Well-Tempered Clavier I</i> BWV846 1722	J. S. Bach (1685-1750)
<i>Contrapunctus No.1</i> from <i>The Art of the Fugue</i> BWV1080 1740s	
<i>Sinfonia No.12</i> BWV798 1720-1723	
<i>Batalha de 5° Tom</i> 1695?	D. da Conceição (fl.1695)
<i>Sang Hwa</i> 1999 Hibikiatte/ Ame no youni/ Tawamurete/ Kaze no youni hayaku	Yoko Sato (b.1971)
<i>Shades of Blue</i> 2004 US premiere Allemande/ Gigue	Peter Seibert (b.1936)
<i>Suite for Noble Cats</i> 1990 Prelude-Fuga/ Arietta/ Scherzo Misterioso/ Gavotte/ Gigue	Ryouhei Hirose (b.1930)

All programs are subject to change.

NOTES

On Three Benches (excerpts)

I often sit in a small park near our home. One can meet many kinds of people, see many kinds of things. Each movement of this piece reflects these impressions. The first describes people strolling with their cheerful dogs; the second expresses the peaceful passage of time inspired by waterfowl floating calmly in a pond. These first two movements will be performed today. Shin'ya Takahashi

Shin'ya Takahashi was born in Japan in 1962. He attended the Kunitachi College of Music in Tokyo, receiving a bachelor's degree in composition in 1986 and a master's degree in composition in 1988. He is a member of the Japan Federation of Composers.

Ave Maria

J. des Prez was active in several parts of Italy and gained people's respect in the same age as Michelangelo and da Vinci. This "Ave Maria" has a variety of textures, including polyphonic sections with imitation in all voices and homophonic sections, as well as five phrases in triple meter. Clear sounds and streams of graceful melody express divine feelings and the warmth emanating from Our Lady.

Canzone Francese Seconda

Salvatore's canzone was an early Italian Baroque instrumental piece, consisting of several parts in the manner of a toccata. The first section is entitled "Nono Tuono Naturale" and the following section has the suggestion

“Concerto di viole” (consort of viols). The usages of chromaticism and sharp dissonances express the open Latin passion.

The Red Shoes of May and Catz

“The Red Shoes of May” was composed as a gift to amateur viol players of the American Society. It begins with a calm choral melody, and then the famous Japanese song melody “Red Shoes” appears, but is hidden in divided middle voices. After a lively section a repeat of the choral melody brings the work to a close. “Catz” imitates the cat’s meow. It is a pleasant composition which combines ‘cat’ and ‘waltz’, written at the request of Yukimi Kambe’s mother for her own use. The waltz not only has simple triple time, but also has irregular meter at certain points. I have a curious reason: a cat with its four feet may well dance in irregular time because humans normally dance triple time with two feet.

Tsutomu Mizuno

Tsutomu Mizuno graduated from the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music. He is currently a lecturer at Junshin Women’s College. He has composed many works for viols, some of them published by the Viola da Gamba Society of Japan and YKVC series.

YKVC recorded them in the CD “Buffet” YKVC0201 and CD “Foglia d’olivo” YKVC0302.

In Nomine

Gibbons was a Renaissance English composer and organist. The “In Nomine” was a kind of consort music very popular in England during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The name “In Nomine” comes from a melody expressing respect for God “In Nomine Domini”. It consists entirely of long notes, and lies in the second voice of this piece.

Fantasia No.7

The four-part Purcell “Fantasia No.7” was composed on August 19, 1680, when the 21-year old Purcell had already been appointed organist at Westminster Abbey. This was among his last works in an already outmoded style. In them one can view with admiration his genius for imitation, inversion of melodies, and chromaticism. It was Purcell’s music which first attracted modern audiences of the last century to the sounds of viols and to early music.

YKVC recorded it in the CD “Buffet” YKVC0201.

Prelude No.1

“The Well-Tempered Clavier I” based partly on the “Little Clavier Book”, consists of twenty four preludes and fugues in all major and minor keys, an event crucial to music history. These were originally performed by two hands on a keyboard. However for us the true nature of the works become much clearer when played by four or five viols. “No.1” became very famous as an accompaniment added to Gounod’s “Ave Maria”. It appears as five voices to us, therefore each plays either one or two voices with viol pizzicati.

YKVC recorded it in the CD “Ja, doch BACH” YKVC0503.

Contrapunctus I

In this work Bach systematically investigated a concept from his whole career “how many contrapuntal possibilities may be drawn from one brief theme”. Excluding futility as much as possible, he compiled these into a single collection. He began to compose this work in the early 1740s and intended to publish it. But its realization was a year after his death, 1751. In 1752 Mattheson predicted it would sell on a world-wide scale (as it does today), but in fact only thirty copies were sold in five years. Although performance by a keyboard instrument is assumed for some of the pieces, and no particular instruments are specified, we have presented it with a consort of four viols. “No.1” is a fugue based on the theme in its original form.

YKVC recorded it in the CD “Buffet” YKVC0201 and CD “Ja, doch BACH” YKVC0503.

Sinfonia No.12

Bach entitled these pieces Fantasia in the “Little Clavier Book”, written in 1720 for his son Wilhelm Friedemann, changing the title to Sinfonia when they became part of a collection intended to guide amateurs in cantabile playing in 1723. “No.12” comprises a dialogue of three voices over a basso continuo. The pleasant theme seems to us to go for a walk.

YKVC recorded it in the CD “Ja, doch BACH” YKVC0503.

Batalha de 5º Tom

Fr. Diego da Conceição was Portuguese composer about whom we know almost nothing. His “Batalha” on the 5th Tone is from “Fr. Roque da Conceicao Livro de Obras de Orgao”, Portugaliae Musica XI, Lisbon, 1967. The Portuguese Missionary Ayres Sanches brought several viols to Japan in 1561 to assist in singing masses, instead of using an organ, which arrived in 1579 or 1580.* From this circumstance we got the idea to play more organ music to expand possibilities of expression of the viol consort and to extend our repertoire.

At that time, battles were frequent. This piece begins with political negotiations, their breakdown, a skirmish, signals of trumpets and drums, commencement of the battle proper, hard fighting and the end. Then you see a pastoral scene. After all that they are eating and drinking! Since the piece has no sections in minor, we think it must have been victorious battle.

Wishing for world peace for the twenty-first century...

*Y. Kambe, “Viols in Japan in the Sixteenth and Early Seventeenth Centuries” *Journal of VdGSA* 37 (2000): 31-66

YKVC recorded it in the CD “Buffet” YKVC0201.

Sang Hwa

With each short movement the listener should see flowers unfolding in overlapping patterns. An Asian feeling emerges from the contemporary usages of early instruments. Yoko Sato

Yoko Sato graduated from Tokyo College of Music where she majored in composition. She also holds a Master's Degree in Composition from the University of Hawai'i, Manoa. Up to the present, she has composed three pieces for viola da gamba, Sang Hwa, Memory of Trees, and Ocean Songs. She serves as Musical Director of ORA-J, an ensemble of Japanese instrumentalists who seek to develop a repertoire of contemporary music for traditional Japanese instruments.

YKVC recorded it in the CD “Buffet” YKVC0201.

Shades of Blue

“Shades of Blue” is a four-movement suite of baroque dances that uses the harmonic structure of the 12-bar blues in each movement. The blues form has evolved from its folk origins and is now used extensively in several musical styles. In Shades of Blue, each movement starts using baroque melodic language, which is gradually replaced during the movement with the melodic language of the blues. The outer movements (Allemande and Gigue) will be heard in this performance. Peter Seibert

Peter Seibert has composed works for professionals and amateurs in a many musical styles for more than four decades. He has written music for Off-Broadway theatre, aleatory and minimalist music, and works for jazz ensembles. In recent years he has written extensively for amateur musicians, although he continues to write for professionals. He is an active composer of choral music and has an interest in writing for historical musical instruments, such as viola da gamba, recorder, and harpsichord.

Suite for Noble Cats

Though the titles of the different parts are taken from old music, I intended to realize modern expression. For example: I sought cheerful activity in Prelude, loveliness in the Aria, wildness and mystery in the Scherzo, esprit and wit in the Gavotte, and rapid mobility in the Gigue. In fact, all of these qualities are attributes of cats!

Ryouhei Hirose

Ryouhei Hirose graduated from the Tokyo University of Music and Arts. He has concentrated lately on writing for western instruments, although he also composes for orchestra, early instruments, and traditional Japanese instruments. He seeks “reaffirmation of human values through music”, and also attaches much importance to communication between performers and audiences. He directed the Research Centre for Japanese Traditional Music and Kyoto City University of Arts. He is currently president of the Kyoto Concert Hall.

YKVC recorded it in the CD “Buffet” YKVC0201.



Yukimi Kambe Viol Consort

Yukimi Kambe Eriko Ozawa Maki Noguchi Kaori Hashizume