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# Guest Artist Recital: Naoko Takada, solo marimba

Naoko Takada

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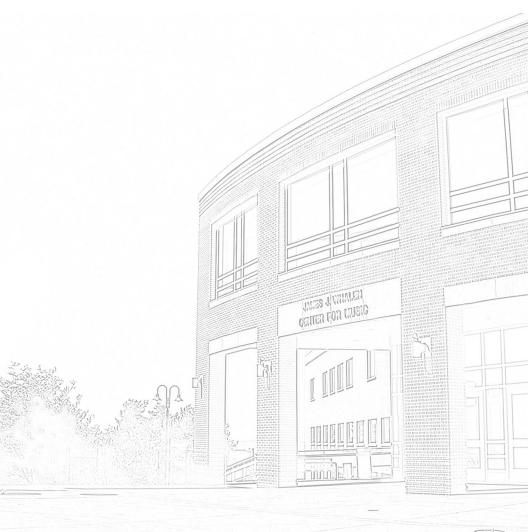
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# Naoko Takada, solo marimba

Lindsey Eastham, marimba

Nabenhauer Recital Room Saturday, November 4th, 2017 7:00 pm





## Program

"Allegro con Fuoco" from Sechs Miniaturen Matthias Schmitt

Henry Purcell arr. Takada

"Rondeau" from *Abdelazer* (originally for string quartet)

"Andante" from Sonata No.37 in E major Hob XVI-22 (originally for piano)

Niccolo Paganini

Franz Joseph Haydn

Caprice No.24 (originally for Violin)

Tango for Naoko

Ching Chen Lin

### Intermission

Five Pieces for Solo Marimba ... to the touch Risolute-In Memoriam Gyorgy Ligeti Con Vibrato Slancio Sotto Voce Joseph Pereira

Memories

Departures

Lindsey Eastham

Naoko Takada

**Emmanuel Sejourne** 

#### Profile

World renowned marimba soloist and Yamaha artist Naoko Takada has toured the world performing in such venues as Carnegie Hall, Conzart Haus in Berlin, Santory Hall in Tokyo, Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., and Lincoln Center in New York. As a solosit, she has performed concertos with numerous orchestras including the New York premiere of Kevin Puts Marimba Concerto with Maestro Leonard Slatkin, and the Orchestra of St. Luke's in Lincoln Center. At age eleven she debuted with the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, and has since perfored with the Tokyo Chamber Orchestra, Houston Symphony, Louisiana Philharmonic, China National Symphony Orchestra, KIOI Sinfonietta Tokyo, Anchorage Symphony, South Dakota Symphony, and West Los Angeles Symphony.

After her debut recital in the Kennedy Center, the Washington Post wrote "Naoko Takada plays a marimba, moving with speed, grace and extraordinary accuracy...like a practitioner of some as-yet-undefined martial art, wielding two mallets in each hand and then plunging them down, with fierce exactitude, in the instruments' solar plexus."

In 2006 Takada won the prestigious S and R Washington Award, a prize that supports artists who contribute to cultural understanding between the United States and Japan. Prior to this, she took First Prize in the Young Concert Artists International Audition, the Houston Ima Hogg National Young Artist Competition, the Sorantin Young Artists International Competition, IBLA Grand Prize at the International Marimba Awards in Italy, and the Japan International League of Artists Competition.

Born in Japan, Naoko Takada began to study marimba at age eight, with Akiko Suzuki and Keiko Abe, and she attended Waseda University where she studied psycology. In 1996 she came to California State University Northridge as an exchange student, to study percussion with Karen-Ervin Pershing, and later became graduate assistant to Gordon Stout at Ithaca College, where she earned a Masters degree. She also studied with Nancy Zeltsman at the Boston Conservatory.

Takada is a Yamaha clinician and has taught at hundreds of schools all over the United States and internationally. She has done countless educational outreach programs including Midori & Friends and the Kennedy Center Educational Outreach Program. She has served as the chief judge for the Southern California International Marimba Competition since it's inception in 2009, as well as a panel judge for numerous others including the PAS international marimba and composition composition competition, the International Marimba Competition in Italy, and the Southern California Percussion Ensemble Festival.

In 2004, Paul Newman invited her to perform at his his "Hole in Wall Gang Camp". She shared a stage with Bruce Willis, Meryl Streep, and Danny Glover. Other festivals inclue the Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington D.C., Festival de Mayo in Mexico, Patagonia International Percussion Festival in Argentina, Universal Marimba Competition and Festival in Belgium, Ju Percussion Summer Camp (Taiwan), Albert Ludwig International Marimba Academy, KoSA International Percussion Festival, Nancy Zeltsman's Marimba Festival, Leigh Howard Stevens Summer Seminor, Yamaha Sounds of Summer Drum Camp and Idyllwild Summer Camp. Her performance has been on many medias such as NPR, WGBH(Boston), WQXR(NY), RTKH(Hong Kong) and she was a featured performer on a Japanese documentary television show.

Tadaka's CD, "Marimba Meets the Classics" produced by JVC includes her own arragements of classical pieces available through CD Baby. Her transcriptions have been published by Studio 4 Music, and her signature line of mallets is available through Encore Mallets, Inc. Takada teaches marimba at University of Southern California.