

## Biography of the artists

### Reison Kuroda

Reison Kuroda began piano lessons in his childhood. However, on hearing the musical composition "November Steps" composed by Toru Takemitsu, he switched to the shakuhachi bamboo flute at the age of 20. He studied under Reibo Aoki II, a shakuhachi player designated as a living national treasure, and Reibo Aoki III. He passed the NHK Japanese music audition and appeared on the NHK FM radio program "Hougaku no Hitotoki" as a solo performer. He won the highest award at the 2nd Hidenori Tone Traditional Japanese Instruments Contest. He was featured in the NHK Educational TV program, "Nippon no Geinoh." In 2018, he won the highest award at the World Shakuhachi Competition in London.

He is a member of Ensemble Muromachi (recipient of the 13th Keizo Saji Prize). He also formed the musical ensemble "Hougaku Quartet" and appeared on NHK FM radio program "Hougaku no Hitotoki." The Hougaku Quartet's first CD, "Teruyuki Noda Works for Japanese Instruments," was designated as a specially selected recording in the December 2016 issue of the Record Art magazine and as a recommended recording in the January 2017 issue of the Ongaku Gendai magazine. As a member of the Ensemble Muromachi and the Hougaku Quartet, he has premiered a large number of works to date.

He has also participated in several recordings, such as CAPCOM's CD, "Ogami Gojuno Oncho," and offered sound sources to TV and radio programs as well.

In 2014, he performed as a soloist in Park Bum-Hoon's Shakuhachi Concerto "Ryu" in the Kudara (Baekje) Festival in Korea; his performance, including his original composition of cadenza, won accolades, and he gave a performance again in Gongju the same year. In 2015, he performed the world premiere of the shakuhachi concerto titled "Roaming liquid for shakuhachi and orchestra" in Tokyo and Kobe. In 2016, he was invited to the Ars Musica modern music festival in Belgium as a solo performer to perform Toru Takemitsu's "November Steps" and world premieres of the latest shakuhachi concertos, including one by Claude Ledoux, within his solo concert, which won a rave review. In his attempt to explore new musical experiences through shakuhachi and orchestras in many parts of the world, he performed the first Rafael Nassif's concerto in Tokyo and Denis Levaillant's concerto in France in 2019.

As his original project, he also organizes a concert every year, where he performs works commissioned to composers of the same generation, and gives solo performances in various parts of the nation in a bid to pursue "the current shakuhachi and its infinite potential."

A member of Reibo Kai, Japan Sankyoku Kyokai, Adachi Ward Sankyoku Kyokai and Bunkyo Ward Sankyoku Kyokai

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### Marie Suga, Baroque Violin

Marie Suga is a baroque violinist based in Tokyo, Japan. She has received the highest prize from 15th Osaka International Music Competition in early music section in 2014. She is a member of Ensemble Muromachi, which has received Sazi Keizo award in 2015.

She has performed in number of concerts as a soloist or an ensemble member internationally; International Mstislav Rostropovich Festival in Russia, Lake District Summer Music Festival in the U.K, The Event of Mekong-Japan Exchange Year in Vietnam, Loire Music Festival in France, Tongyeong International Music Festival in Korea, and La Folle Journée in Japan.

She also performed at the award ceremony for Japan International Prize in 2010 as a member of an orchestra, in front of the emperor of Japan.

She has participated in many baroque orchestras for concerts and recordings, including Bach Collegium Japan and Orchestra Libera Classica.

She gave the first performance of "Fantasia for solo baroque violin" presented by Masato Tsuyuki at Japan Contemporary Music Festival in 2015.

She has a large repertoire from medieval music to contemporary music.

She earned her bachelor's degree in modern violin in 2011 and master's degree in baroque violin in 2014 from the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music. She has also earned a baroque violin degree of Formació continuada of from Catalonia College of Music (ESMUC) in Barcelona, Spain in 2016, supervised by Emilio Moreno