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JAPAN
INFORMATION & CULTURE CENTER

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Japanese Pianist Ichiro Nodaira to perform for grand finale to the 2019 National Cherry Blossom Festival at the Kennedy Center.

WASHINGTON, DC (MARCH 6, 2019) – The **Japan Information & Culture Center (JICC), Embassy of Japan, DC**, is excited to announce the 2019 National Cherry Blossom Festival Finale: Japanese Pianist Ichiro Nodaira in Concert at the Kennedy Center’s Terrace Theater, on the evening of Thursday, April 25th at 7:30 PM. A distinguished musician and prolific composer, Nodaira will come from Japan to give this special performance.

Accompanied by violinist Sumire Hirotsuru, Nodaira’s performance will feature original compositions as well as songs that celebrate the season of spring.

The Terrace Theater at the Kennedy Center, which opened in 1979, has a historical connection to Japan. In honor of America’s bicentennial in 1976, Japan made a philanthropic gift to the Center in order to build the Terrace Theater.

The 2019 National Cherry Blossom Festival celebrates the strong and enduring friendship between Japan and the United States, and the gift of 3,000 cherry trees given by Mayor Yukio Ozaki of Tokyo to the City of Washington, DC in 1912.

Tickets will be available through the Kennedy Center at: <http://www.kennedy-center.org>

Pictures of the artists are available upon request.

This concert is presented by the Japan Information & Culture Center, Embassy of Japan and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

ICHIRO NODAIRA, PIANO

Born in 1953 in Tokyo, Japan, Ichiro Nodaira is a composer, concert pianist, and conductor. He graduated with a degree in composition from the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music, and in 1978, he went to Paris on a scholarship granted by the French government to continue his studies at Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris. To date, Nodaira has composed over 80 works for orchestra, opera, chamber ensemble, and solo instruments commissioned by the French Ministry of Culture, IRCAM, the National Theatre of Japan, and several other festivals and institutions. Nodaira has been a professor at Tokyo University of the Arts since 2009, and he is also currently Artistic Director of Concert Hall in Shizuoka City.



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SUMIRE HIROTSURU, VIOLIN

Born in Oita, Japan, violinist Sumire Hirotsuru has a multifaceted interest in music, education, and writing. This past season, she has appeared at Leipzig Gewandhaus and the Chamber Music Society at Lincoln Centers, collaborated with Yo-Yo Ma and Silk Road Ensemble, and served as co-concertmaster of the Julliard Orchestra, among other accomplishments. As an active member of the Video Game Orchestra, she has recorded several video game soundtracks, including Final Fantasy XV. Sumire earned a B.A. from Harvard University in 2016 and a M.M. from The Julliard School in 2018. She is a recipient of the William Shuman Prize, awarded for outstanding achievement and leadership in music at Julliard. She founded Smilee Entertainment LLC upon graduating, and is currently focused on performance, composition, and arts management.

The **John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts** is the living memorial to President Kennedy and America's premier performing arts center in Washington, D.C. The Terrace Theater, a Bicentennial gift from the people of Japan to the United States, opened in 1979. Located on the Roof Terrace level, it seats 490 for intimate performances of chamber music, recitals, dance, and theater.

The **Japan Information & Culture Center (JICC), Embassy of Japan in Washington, DC** is the region's #1 authoritative resource for Japan-related information and culture, a gift sponsored by the people of Japan since 1981. As part of the Embassy of Japan's public outreach program, the JICC is deeply committed to enriching the relationship between the people of Japan and the United States through an active, vibrant cultural and informational exchange. For more information, please visit <http://www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/jicc>.

The **National Cherry Blossom Festival** is the nation's greatest springtime celebration. The 2019 Festival includes four weeks of events featuring diverse and creative programming promoting traditional and contemporary arts and culture, natural beauty, and community spirit. Visit nationalcherryblossomfestival.org or call 877.44.BLOOM for more information, or check out Facebook (@CherryBlossom Festival), Twitter (@CherryBlossFest), and Instagram (@CherryBlossFest).

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