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JAPAN
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The Japanese Jazz Series at Blues Alley marks its 6th year celebrating the National Cherry Blossom Festival

WASHINGTON, DC (MARCH 6, 2019) – The Japan Information & Culture Center (JICC), Embassy of Japan, DC, is proud to present the sixth annual Japanese Jazz Series for three Monday nights at DC's finest jazz club, Blues Alley.

Soon after the United States gave birth to jazz, its soulful sound made its way to Japan, evolving into a vibrant scene. The Japanese Jazz Series has become a highly anticipated musical celebration during the National Cherry Blossom Festival, where contemporary Japanese and American jazz artists celebrate the musical bonds the two countries share.

The 2019 series includes performances by three internationally acclaimed pianists, Yoko Miwa, Rina Yamazaki, and Yuko Mabuchi, each bringing their own unique interpretations and original sounds to this beloved art form. Yuko Miwa is in fact a returning artist from the 2018 Japanese Jazz Series. She is coming back to DC as a result of her popular, full-housed shows last year.

Tickets available through Blues Alley at www.bluesalley.com

Pictures of the artists available upon request.

The 6th Annual Japanese Jazz Series is presented by the Japan Information & Culture Center, Embassy of Japan and Blues Alley Jazz.

SCHEDULE OF PERFORMERS

YOKO MIWA || MONDAY APRIL 1 || 8 PM & 10 PM SHOWS || BLUES ALLEY

Internationally acclaimed pianist / composer Yoko Miwa is quickly becoming known as one of the most powerful and compelling performers on the scene today. Joined by Will Slater on the bass, and Scott Goulding on the drums, her trio – with its remarkable telepathy and infectious energy – has brought audiences to their feet worldwide. Miwa also appears regularly at New York's famed Blue Note Jazz Club and is part-time Assistant Professor at the Berklee College of Music's Piano Department. [Click here to purchase tickets.](#)



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RINA YAMAZAKI || MONDAY APRIL 8 || 8 PM & 10 PM SHOWS || BLUES ALLEY

A jazz piano player originally from Saitama, Japan, Rina Yamazaki is currently based in New York City. She has played the keyboard for Jonathan Batiste's "Stay Human," the house band for The Late Show with Stephen Colbert, and she was nominated for Jazz Artist of the Year by Boston Music Awards 2018. In June 2018, she was awarded second place at the prestigious Ellis Marsalis International Jazz Piano Competition, where she also received the Nu Jazz Agency's Chico & Lupe O'Farill Award for Best Composition. [Click here to purchase tickets.](#)

YUKO MABUCHI || MONDAY APRIL 15 || 8 PM & 10 PM SHOWS || BLUES ALLEY

Yuko Mabuchi started playing classical piano at the age of 4 in her hometown of Fukui, Japan. After hearing the music of Oscar Peterson and Herbie Hancock, she fell in love with jazz. She entered the AN Music School in Kyoto to study jazz piano under Kunihiro Kameda, and in 2010, Mabuchi arrived in LA to study at the Music Performance Academy in California. The up-and-coming artist has recorded three albums to date. Yuko also donates her time as the accompanist for the Watts-Willowbrook Conservatory and Youth Symphony, a music program that offers training to youngsters in LA's inner city. [Click here to purchase tickets.](#)

Founded in 1965, **Blues Alley** is the nation's oldest continuing jazz supper club, having showcased internationally renowned concert hall artists in an intimate setting. Located in the heart of historic Georgetown in an 18th century red brick carriage house, Blues Alley offers its patrons a unique ambiance, reminiscent of the jazz clubs of the 1920s and 30s.

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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