



## World Music Ensembles

Thursday, November 29, 2018 | 7:30 pm | Walter Hall, 80 Queen's Park

### PROGRAM

#### Japanese Taiko Ensemble

Gary Kiyoshi Nagata, *director*

#### ***Renshu Daiko*, composed by Seiichi Tanaka**

Renshū Daiko literally means 'practice song.' Played in rounds, this piece incorporates many traditional patterns and techniques found in Japanese taiko music.

#### ***Futten (Boiling Point)*, composed by Yoshikazu Fujimoto**

This song is based on the traditional, improvised style of drumming found in the Mikuni area in Fukui Prefecture.

#### ***Fuyu no Michi (Winter Road)*, composed by Shuichi Hidano**

This is a modern composition by virtuoso taiko player Shuichi Hidano. In this piece, two groups of performers duel each other with interweaving rhythms.

#### ***Ogi Matsuri Daiko*, composed by Yoshikazu Fujimoto**

Ogi is a small port town located on the southern part of Sado Island in Niigata Prefecture. The local villagers play this piece during Ogi Matsuri (festival) every August on taiko attached to large mobile carts.

### Performers

Julia Araiche  
Ana Castro Barrios  
Nathania-Rose Chan  
Carissa Chen  
Raymond Chiu  
Gabriel Conquer  
Shaked Danieli

Rosemonde Desjardins  
Crescenzo Dicecco  
Nicolas Donovan  
Zachary Goldstein  
Sierra Kim  
Benjamin Law  
Lian McMillan

Jodie Ng  
Saki Nishida  
Rae Pauzé  
Philippe Tippins  
Diyara Toktamyssova  
Gergory Walshaw  
Judy Yang

### Singing and Drumming in First Nations Traditions

Jenny Blackbird, *director*

#### ***Joy - Love Song - For those who never got to go home - Traveling Song***

### Performers

Helen Abbot  
Rosa Alaimo  
Mara Bowman  
Sabian Autumn Compri  
Chiara Culmone

Sarah D'Cunha  
Crescenzo Dicecco  
Miles Fuller  
Caleb Klager  
Avery Lafrentz

Rae Pauzé  
Mira Riselli  
Erez Sussman  
Jacob Valcheff  
Qiuchen Wang

## University of Toronto Klezmer Ensemble

Brian Katz, *director*

Improvised *Doina/Nokh A Gleyzl Vayn* (“Another Glass of Wine”) - Dave Tarras (1897-1989) arr. B. Katz

*Abe Schwartz Bulgar* - Abe Schwartz (1881-1963) Solo piano arr. Deborah Park

*Abi Gezunt* (“As Long As You’re Healthy”)\*

Music: Abraham Ellstein (1907-1963) Lyrics: Molly Picon (1898-1992)

Arr. vocal harmonies: Mara Bowman, Sarah D’Cunha, Sunny Sheffman

*Lebedik un Freylekh* (“Lively and Happy”) (transcription of 1919 recording by Abe Schwartz Orchestra)

*Sadeger Khoidl* - Joseph Moskowitz (1879-1954) arr. Daniel Piatkowski

*Freylekh’s # 1&3 Trad.* (from Kammen International Dance Folio no. 1, J&J Kammen Music Co.)

*Drey Dreydl* (“Turn Dreidel”) Music: Abraham Ellstein (1907-1963) Lyrics: Moyshe Oysher (1906-1958)

Segue

*Schwartz’s Sirba* - Abe Schwartz

Arr. scat syllables for *Drey Dreydl* and *Schwartz’s Sirba*: Mara Bowman, Sarah D’Cunha, Sunny Sheffman

## The University of Toronto Klezmer Band

Helen Abbot, viola  
Pinar Ayverdi, flute  
Mara Bowman, voice  
Carmine Coccimiglio, guitar  
Sarah D’Cunha, voice  
Hannah Godfrey-Clarke, bass  
Joanna Gorska-Kochanowicz, violin

Amy Heyd, flute  
Bruce Luo, clarinet  
Charlotte McIntosh, alto sax, trumpet  
Deborah (Hyun Hee) Park, piano  
Daniel Piatkowski, guitar  
Sunny Sheffman, voice  
Devin Wesley, bassoon

Klezmer, the soul music of Eastern-European Jewry, can be considered an early form of “fusion,” an amalgamation of Eastern-European based folk tunes/musical dialects mixed with indigenous Jewish sounds, particularly those rooted in the Chassidic tradition. Niginum, the wordless chant melodies of the Chassidim inform many klezmer pieces, as do the “yearning” melismatic outpourings of the synagogue chazzan, cantor. When klezmer arrived in America it again took new turns, incorporating aspects of American popular song as well as jazz. The University of Toronto Klezmer ensemble performs both old and new world klezmer, embracing a living tradition that continues to expand. In past years, the U of T Klezmer Ensemble have performed at the Ashkenaz Festival, The Four Seasons Opera Centre, and the Glenn Gould Theatre.

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We wish to acknowledge this land on which the University of Toronto operates. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Today, this meeting place is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work on this land.

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## Biographies

**Kiyoshi Gary Nagata** has been performing taiko in a career that spans 36 years. Apart from leading his professional group, Nagata Shachu, Kiyoshi is regularly invited by universities and taiko groups to present workshops and lectures. He has composed and performed taiko music for dance, theatre, film and radio and continues to collaborate with artists from all genres of music including traditional Japanese instrumentalists. Kiyoshi has taught taiko at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music since 1998. The U of T Japanese taiko ensemble studies and performs music based on traditional Japanese festival drumming.

**Jenny Blackbird** (Nehiyaw and Finnish-Canadian) is an old-style jingle dress dancer, hand drummer/singer and a multi-disciplinary artist with a background in fashion design. Jenny works at University of Toronto at The Centre for Indigenous Studies as coordinator for Ciimaan/Kahuwe'ya/Qajaq Indigenous Language Initiative program. She also works at The Royal Ontario Museum as an Indigenous Knowledge Resource Teacher, conducting tours for student groups, as well as on-site outreach in the Daphne Cockwell First People's Gallery. Since 2008, Jenny has volunteered at Aboriginal Legal Services (ALS) as community Auntie for the Giiwedind Anang council, which supports Indigenous families who are navigating through the child welfare system. She also sits on the ALS community council diversion program, as advisory committee and council member.

Jenny Blackbird is one of 5 hosts of the "Indigenous Waves" radio show, on CIUT 89.5 FM at 6 PM Mondays, as well as co-host of The Women's Hour radio show, Saturday mornings 10 am on Radio Regent online radio. She facilitates arts workshops in TDSB Schools, and has guest lectured at the Ryerson School of Social Work, OISE and Indigenous Studies. She is the recipient of the 2016 "Culture Keeper" Minaake Award, granted by Native Women's Resource Centre of Toronto.

**Brian Katz** is an internationally acclaimed guitarist, pianist, recording artist, improviser, composer, music educator, and klezmer-at-large! As a performer and composer, he is noted for bringing classical and world music influences to modern jazz and Jewish music, and is highly regarded as a "free" improviser, where he blends many of his influences into coherent musical statements. Of his last solo recording, *Leaves Will Speak*, Jazz Podium (Germany) wrote: "If you want music that speaks—here it is."

### \*English Translation for *Abi Gezunt* ("As Long As You're Healthy")

Translation courtesy of the Milken Archive Website

A little bit of sun, a bit of rain,  
A quiet place to put your head down,  
As long as you're well, you can be happy.  
A shoe, a sock, a dress with no patches,  
In your pocket three or four dollars,  
As long as you're well, you can be happy.

The air is free for everyone equally,  
The sun shines for everyone,  
Poor or rich,  
Some joy, some laughter,  
A drink with friends,  
As long as you're well, you can be happy.

One person seeks riches,  
One seeks wealth,  
One, the whole world.  
Another thinks complete joy,  
Depends only on money.  
Let them all seek,  
Let them all grovel.  
But I myself think I don't need it because,  
Happiness stands at my door.



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