



Looking Beyond Borders

JAPAN AND CHINA
HOW MUSIC TELLS
THE STORY OF
CENTURIES OF
SHARED EXPERIENCE

TALK | PERFORMANCE

Presented By



With Support From



Welcome

To our Asia Society Members, friends and invited guests,

Welcome to tonight's performance and talk 'Looking beyond Borders: Japan and China' presented by Asia Society Australia, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, the Art Gallery of NSW, VisAsia Council and with support from the Japan Foundation.

Asia is made up of a rich diversity of cultures and traditions, yet beyond national borders lie commonalities forged over centuries by the movement of people, goods and ideas across the Continent.

This evening, through music, we'll use the Japanese Koto and Chinese Guqin instruments and their common Zither origin to explore the confluence of Japanese and Chinese culture. We hope that this is the first in a series of events that examine a common Asia, through art, culture, music, religion, literature and philosophy.

As we witness the economic and strategic ascendancy of Asia and the rapid growth in the mobility of people, technologies and capital, now is the time to seek a deeper understanding of the region, its complexity, its tensions, its history and the commonalities that bind it together.

Building bridges of understanding is at the heart of Asia Society's mission and we are so pleased to be able to share this unique program with you.

Philipp Ivanov
Chief Executive Officer
Asia Society Australia

Tomoyuki Tanaka
Country Head, Sumitomo
Mitsui Banking Cooperation

Program

Welcome

Philipp Ivanov
CEO, Asia Society Australia

Talk

Warren Reed
Author and former Intelligence
Officer

Introduction

Tomoyuki Tanaka
Country Head, Sumitomo Mitsui
Banking Corporation

Performance one & two

Garei Nakagawa and Ritsuko
Nakao (Japan)

Tony Wheeler (Australia)

Interlude

Tomoyuki Tanaka
Country Head, Sumitomo Mitsui
Banking Corporation

Performance three & four

Satsuki Odamura (Australia) and
Garei Nakagawa (Japan)

Joined by Tony Wheeler (Australia)

Drinks and Canapes

Chiswick at the Gallery

Event concludes 8:30 pm



Our Speaker

Warren Reed is an adviser to business and a regular media commentator on cross-cultural trade, the geopolitics of globalisation, espionage and terrorism. He is often called upon to talk about the human side of spying. With a background in secret intelligence and economic reporting and trained by MI6, Reed is acutely aware of the sorts of challenges that Australians and others face in a “globalised” world.

Born in Tasmania, Reed completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Tasmania and went on to study Law at the University of Tokyo as an Australia-Japan Business Cooperation Committee Scholar.

Recruited by the Australian Secret Intelligence Service (ASIS) and trained by MI6, Warren spent ten-years in clandestine work. This focused on the Asian region and the Middle East. During his overall work for the government, Reed served in Australian embassies in Tokyo, Cairo and New Delhi, with frequent visits to Indonesia and other Asian countries.

After leaving the public service, Reed became CEO of the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) and worked as a consultant at Sydney University’s Research Institute for Asia and the Pacific.

Reed is a prolific writer having published numerous nonfiction books on Australian foreign policy in Asia, Australian attitudes towards Japan and economic growth in Asia. He has also published two spy novels, *Code Cicada* (2004) and *Hidden Scorpion* (2013).

A frequent traveller to Asia, Warren lived in Japan for a total of 10 years. He is fluent in Japanese and has studied Mandarin Chinese, Bahasa Indonesia and Arabic.

Performance

One

A Bottle Gourd Flower (Yugao)

Performed by: Performed by Gareï Nakagawa, Shamisen and Ritsuko Nakano, Koto
This is a lovely jiuta piece of the Kyoto style composed in the early nineteenth century. The song text is based on the story of Yugao ('Evening Faces') from 'The Tale of Genji.

About a young man, who on the way to visit his old foster mother stops to admire a fence clustered with evening glories. A young girl appears, and on behalf of her mistress (Yugao) presents some of the flowers to Genji on a perfumed fan.

Entranced by the simple beauty of the girl, he resolves to see her again. He takes her with him one night to a secluded mansion, but after a brief interlude of love, Genji's previous lady, Rokujo, sends her jealous spirit to kill Yugao, and Yugao dies in his arms.

Two

Part one

Ode to Spring Dawn (Chun Xiao Yin)

Performed by: Tony Wheeler on Guqin

First appearing in the Xi Lu Tang Qin Tong folio from 1549, this simple yet elegant piece is full of traditional flavour.

Part two

Spring Flowing in the Jade Green Valley (Bi Jian Liu Quan)

Performed by: Tony Wheeler on Guqin

This is a piece from the Guangdong school, Ling Nan of Qin. It originally comes from an early Qin Dynasty manuscript called "Bequeathed Scores of the Ancient Ridge" (Gu Gang Yi Pu). Although this manuscript is now lost, some 30 or so pieces from it survive. Rhythmically, and melodically, there are aspects of Spring Flower in the Jade Green Valley which sound very contemporary.



Performance

Three

Album of One Hundred Flowers Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter (Hyakkafu)

Performed by: Satsuki Odamura & Gareii Nakagawa both on Koto

A modern peice from the Sawai School, composed for Koto by Sawai Tadao. It consists of linked parts representing the seasons. Spring, which begins with a profusion of flowers, is conveyed by a rivalry of competing sounds from the koto and the bass koto, aiming at producing a dazzling colour before moving on to Summer.

Both Summer and Winter were written with a particular scene in mind, in front of Sawai's house there was an evergreen magnolia tree, from which thick large white flowers would drift a languorous scent in the humid summer evenings. They reminded him of another summer unlike "this glaring one". The summer of this piece is that 'other summer'.

To Sawai, the Japanese autumn is an especially musical and picturesque season. The sound of insects and the brocade of the coloured trees stir hearts; it is music, it is painting. It captures the typical Japanese beauty.

Four

Improvisation peice

Performed by: All performers

Created exclusively for this evening's performance, this one-off collaboration showcases the skill of our Koto and Guqin masters, intertwines elements of Chinese and Japanese musical traditions, and demonstrates how two instruments, born from a common origin, have developed unique but complementary characteristics over centuries of use.

