

YUMI KUROSAWA TRIO



Jasper Arts Center
February 28, 2026 at 7:30 PM



Yumi Kurosawa, koto
Naho Parrini, violin
Yousif Sheronick, hand drum

Performance Program

All Music Composed by Yumi Kurosawa

Dawn*

Oneday Monday*

Silent Birds**

Mandala**

Thank Your Lucky Stars

Enchantmentica

Zealla*

Inner Space (2002)

Catalytic Dream (2025)

Between Worlds (2024)

Departure*

*supported by Chamber Music America's Artistic Projects program
funded through the Howard Gilman Foundation in 2022.

**commissioned by the National Museum of Asian Art in 2021.

FOR FULL **SCAN** 
PROGRAM **ME**

Yumi Kurosawa - Koto player, Composer, Producer, Educator

Yumi Kurosawa is one of the world's preeminent koto performers and composers, a visionary artist whose work consistently redefines the possibilities of her instrument and medium. She is a rare talent whose artistry lies at the intersection of tradition and innovation. What distinguishes Yumi is not only her extraordinary skill, but her ability to create work that is both conceptually sophisticated and deeply accessible. Her performances transcend cultural and generational divides, and her collaborative ethos brings out the best in those around her. She approaches each project with curiosity, integrity, and a profound respect for diverse perspectives. Her voice is singular, her vision bold, and her commitment to artistic dialogue unwavering.

Born and raised in a Koto family in Japan, Yumi Kurosawa was an award-winning Koto star from a young age. She won first prize at the National Koto Competition in 1989 and 1992, and in 1998 received a fellowship from the Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japan. She made her Carnegie Hall debut in 2006. Kurosawa premiered Daron Hagen's Koto Concerto Genji with both Orchestra of the Swan, UK and the Hawaii Symphony Orchestra. She also performed as a principal soloist for Suntory Hall's Opening Gala with the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra in 2017. She was a guest artist for Japanese Connection at the Kennedy Center in 2017. Kurosawa also has been active as a composer on projects including music for the theater and ballet, and she has been commissioned by the Smithsonian's Freer Gallery of Art and the National Gallery of Art. Kurosawa received a grant from Chamber Music America in 2022 and the Creative Traditional Arts Award from the Japan Arts Foundation, Tokyo in 2024.

Yumi Kurosawa Cont'd

She has been praised by The NY Times, the Washington Post, and received CD reviews such as this from All Music: "Far from being the usual kind of international release in which an exotic instrument is pasted onto homogeneous New Age textures, this is chamber music of a very high order". Kurosawa has been selected as a lecturer for a new Creator Training Program in Japanese traditional music by the Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japan and performed as a featured artist in "An Evening of Traditional Japanese Arts" at Stern Auditorium, Carnegie Hall in 2025.

She has released three original albums: Beginning of a Journey (2009), Looking up at the Sky (2015), and Metamorphosis (2023).

She is a certified grand master of Koto in the Seiha school/style. She studied 13-string Koto and Shamisen under her parents, Kazuo and Chikako Kurosawa, and studied 20-string Koto under Nanae Yoshimura. Kurosawa graduated from Keio University with a degree in International Relations. Currently, she teaches in the Music Performing Program within the Music Department at Columbia University, NYC.

Naho Parrini, violin

Violinist, Naho Parrini, a native of Japan, has given numerous solo and chamber music recitals in the United States, Japan, Germany, France, and Bulgaria. She received her BM from North Carolina School of the Arts, and her MM and DMA from the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Her principal teachers include Kevin Lawrence, Mitchell Stern, Philip Setzer, and Pamela Frank. She performs regularly with New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic, South Country Concert Series, Mirror Visions Ensemble, and Performance Santa Fe.

Naho Parrini Cont'd

She is a Resident Teaching Artist and Director of a pre-college program, Music Access Project at Bloomingdale School of Music in New York City. She also serves as co-director of the Adult Chamber Music Workshop and violin faculty of Junior Session at Kinhaven Music School in Vermont.

Yousif Sheronick

Hailed by the **New York Times** for his “**dazzling improvisations**” and his “**wizardry on a range of humble frame drums,**” Yousif Sheronick enjoys an active career as percussionist, composer, artistic director, and educator. Having studied classical percussion through a Master’s degree at Yale, Yousif went on to study music from **Brazil, India, Africa, and the Middle East,** which he seamlessly incorporates into his playing. Yousif’s unique skills have led him to perform with a diverse range of ensembles and musicians, including **Philip Glass, Yo-Yo Ma, Laurie Anderson, Los Angeles Philharmonic,** Ethos Percussion Group, Lark Quartet, SilkRoad Ensemble, Branford Marsalis, Sonny Fortune, Glen Velez, and Paul Winter. His many musical influences are highlighted in **duoJalal,** his venture with violist and wife Kathryn Lockwood. A **feature article in Drum! Magazine** highlighted Yousif’s versatility in an article titled “At The Corner Of The World.” Yousif is **co-Artistic Director of Telluride MusicFest,** a two-week summer festival perched on the side of a mountain at 10,000 feet! His online Frame Drum School now boasts over **1100 enrolled students from 70 countries.**

www.framedrumschool.org.