

‘**Koto**’ is a traditional Japanese stringed musical instrument which has 13 strings and about 180 cm (71 in) length, and made from *Kiri* wood (*Paulownia tomentosa*). It is a national musical instrument of Japan. To play ‘**Koto**’, the strings are plucked using three finger picks. The most important influence on the development of ‘**Koto**’ is Yatsushashi Kengyo (1614–1685). He was a gifted blind musician from Kyoto.

18:00~ April 3



箏

Koto

Kayoko Yokoyama



Profile of ‘**Koto**’ player, Kayoko Yokoyama:

She began to learn ‘**Koto**’ play in a school of “Ikuta” from 10 years old. She graduated from Tokyo University of Arts with Jyoei-syo Award for excellent students, and Tokyo University of Arts, Graduate School.

After that, she received many awards for her excellent performances of traditional Japanese musical instruments. After teaching at Kyoto City University of Arts, she is a professor at Naruto University of Education and others. She has been performing traditional Japanese music concerts at many places in Japan and all over the world.

## Program

みだれ *Midare (Chaos)*

composed by Yatsushashi Kengyo who is called father of ‘**Koto**’.

This is one of very famous pieces for ‘**Koto**’ with many kinds of tempos. It had no music score and were passed on by oral tradition.



讃歌 *Sanka (Song in Praise)*

composed by Sawai Tadao who is a genius Koto player in 20<sup>th</sup> century.

“Sanka is inspired by the beauty of nature, the affections among people, and the profundity of art . . .”

鳥のように *Torinoyouni (Like a Bird)*

composed also by Sawai Tadao.

“Everyone has a dream that I wish I could fly like a bird. We usually have it in our subconscious mind, and something triggers us to wake up . . .”