



music for flute and harp that highlights Japanese culture and aesthetics

Featuring Powell Flutes Artist Amelia Lukas and Harpist Bethany Evans

The Lukas-Evans Duo evokes tranquil and beautiful sonorities of Japan in *The Shakuhachi Influence: Music for Flute & Harp*. Traditionally played by Zen Buddhist monks in the practice of *suizen* (blowing meditation) and deeply connected to the sounds of nature, the Shakuhachi has inspired composers around the world. This finely-crafted program explores the numerous ways in which Japanese culture and aesthetics have influenced music: *minimalism*, the allowing of beauty and abundance to emerge from less, rather than more; *ma*, a spatial void or silence to provide a focal point; and *fukinsei*, the use of asymmetry to achieve balance. By rethinking what's possible with the use of breath in music, the Shakuhachi Influence creates space for the artists to emote with a wide range of subtle tone, pitch, and color variation.

Key works on the program include:

Spiegel im Spiegel by Arvo Pärt, a work emanating from Pärt's Estonian roots and characterized by spirituality and the Japanese-associated concept of minimalism. Pärt was presented with the prestigious Praemium Imperiale cultural award from the Japan Art Association (Tokyo) in 2014 for his work, an honor considered equal to the Nobel Prize in the field of culture.

Pavane pour une infante defunte by Joseph Maurice Ravel, an Impressionist who like his contemporaries sought inspiration in Japanese art for its use of compositional space, flattening of planes, and abstract approaches to color.

Island of the Spirit by Deena T. Grossman, an Oregon-based composer who draws inspiration from the natural world and whose music poignantly awakens powerful emotions. Grossman is married to Shakuhachi master Larry Tyrell.

Encantamiento by Daniel Catán, a piece written after living in Japan for two years and one that draws heavy inspiration from the Shakuhachi for its extreme versatility. Catán utilizes different fingerings, embouchures, and breath speed to produce notes of the same pitch, with subtle or dramatic differences in tone color.

The program will be interspersed with Japanese folk melodies, expertly written and arranged for flute and harp by the talented composer Gary Schocker, also one of the greatest flutists of our time, and a talented harp player.

Run time = 70 - 90 minutes, depending on program choices.



About the Artists

Known for her especially pure tone, flexible technique, and passionate, committed performances, flutist **Amelia Lukas** performs with “a fine balance of virtuosity and poetry.” (*New York Times*) A resident of Portland, Oregon, Amelia’s recent engagements include solo appearances with Chamber Music Northwest, Fear No Music, March Music Moderne, Portland Taiko, the Astoria Music Festival, Music in the Woods, and for All Classical Portland’s live radio broadcasts, with additional chamber and orchestral performances for the Eugene Symphony, Willamette Valley Chamber Music Festival, Portland Piano International, Friends of Chamber Music, 45th Parallel, Oregon Music Festival, and Bridgetown Orchestra. While in New York, Amelia’s career included membership in the American Modern Ensemble and performances at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, The Stone, Bargemusic, (Le) Poisson Rouge, Roulette, and New Music New York Festival. Lauded for her skilled interpretation of new music, Amelia “excels at bringing drama and fire to hyper-modernist works with challenging extended techniques.” (*Oregon ArtsWatch*) She holds degrees from the Manhattan School of Music and the Royal Academy of Music (London) where she received three prizes for musical excellence. Amelia is a Board Member for Chamber Music Northwest and offers arts PR services as the Principal/Founder of Aligned Artistry. Amelialukas.com

Bethany Evans, a native of Salem, Oregon, began her music studies at age five. She began studying the harp four years later and found her passion. She received a Bachelor of Music in Harp Performance from the University of Arizona summa cum laude and graduated with a 4.0 from the University of Oregon’s Master of Music program in Harp Performance. Ms. Evans also has a law degree from Willamette University College of Law. She has performed extensively throughout Europe and the United States and has multiple award-winning recordings. She has an active private teaching studio and is a member of the faculty of Western Oregon University and Chemeketa Community College as harp instructor as well as performing with orchestras around the northwest and at numerous private functions. She is also the principal harpist for the Salem Orchestra and the Portland Columbia Symphony Orchestra. Her greatest devotion is being a mom to her ten-year-old daughter and eight-year-old son and a wife to her artist husband, Kamron Coleman.

