

[View this email in your browser](#)

Tomoko Mukaiyama Foundation^{x.}

Pianist Takes Over Tokyo

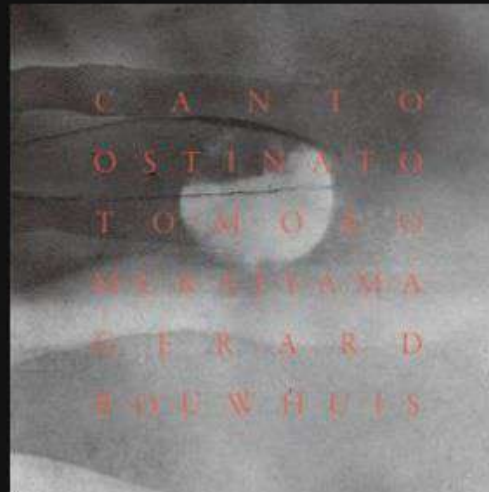


©Kiyooki Sasahara / Courtesy of Fondation

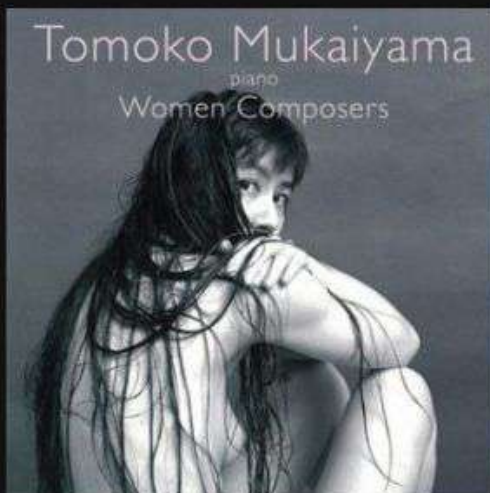
We're pleased to be wrapping up a truly special, monthlong musical installation of [Pianist](#) at Ginza Maison Hermès le Forum. Each day in February (Feb 5—28) we presented a different performance at a different time of day using different kinds of pianos. Sometimes a concert grand piano was used to convey a commanding voice, sometimes an out-of-tune upright was used to pound out an old tune. During the 1 a.m. show, we gave the audience blankets and played softly so they could sleep. Within 10 minutes people started to snore, which seemed like a perfect musical accompaniment. Morton Feldman would have been proud. We were amazed by the success of the show. Over 7,320 people visited the exhibition during the course of the month, with some people attending nearly every performance. On the last day, about 800 people showed up. This collaboration with the curator and production team at Hermès couldn't have gone better.



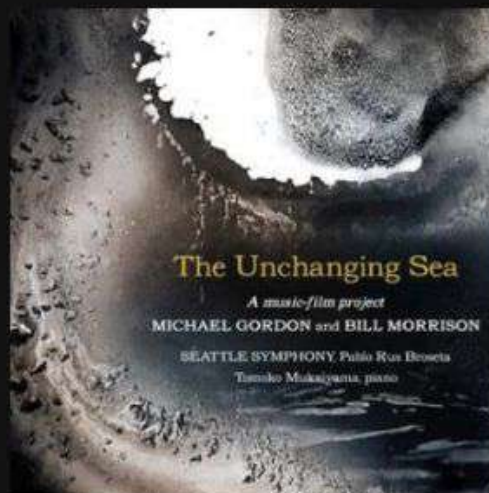
Amsterdam x Tokyo
5 NUMMERS • 2019



**Simeon ten Holt:
Canto Ostinato**
5 NUMMERS • 2019



Women Composers



The Unchanging Sea

Several superlative albums from Tomoko Mukaiyama's long career have been digitized and are now streaming on [Spotify](#) and [iTunes](#). The albums include *Women Composers*, Mukaiyama's first CD. Though that anthology of women composers was first released in 1994, such a strong collection of female talent carries a special resonance in an industry still dominated by men.

In *Amsterdam x Tokyo*, Mukaiyama celebrates 400 years of trade relations between Japan and the Netherlands by bringing together young composers from each country to create a composition for piano solo. Mukaiyama's recording of Simeon ten Holt's peaceful, meditative masterpiece, *Canto Ostinato*, is also required listening, not to mention *The Unchanging Sea*, a minimalist, dense, rhythm-heavy collaboration between avant-garde filmmaker Bill Morrison and Bang on a Can cofounder Michael Gordon. Peruse the rest of the catalogue on [Spotify](#), or [iTunes](#).

Me, Peer Gynt in Groningen (NL)



© Herre Vermeer

Our musical translation of Henrik Ibsen's popular play, *Me, Peer Gynt*, is back on tour for a show in Groningen, NL.

Ibsen is best known in the U.S. for his canonical play, *A Doll's House*, which tells the story of a woman named Nora escaping oppressive gender restrictions and coming into herself. But back home Ibsen might be better known for *Peer Gynt*, a play about a misanthrope with an Oedipus complex who searches the world in order to find himself.

While that story seems a little old fashioned now, Ibsen's explorations of the nature of identity feel very contemporary, especially in the age of social media. Sometimes we can get so obsessed with internet personas that we forget there's nothing at their core.

Playing with some of these themes, Russian cellist and frequent collaborator Maya Fridman translated Alfred Schnittke's ballet, *Peer Gynt*, into a composition for piano, cello and tape. Ting Gong, Pavla Beranova and Yutaka Endo/LUFTZUG will create the set and lighting design as we express the drama of Ibsen's story through music.

07 MAY 2019 [Grant Theatre](#), Groningen, NL



On Tour In Mexico and Colombia



© Tomoko Mukaiyama

We're thrilled to spend part of the summer touring Mexico and Colombia with a repertoire of contemporary Japanese music. Aside from Mukaiyama's own compositions, the program will feature Atsuhiko Gondai / Merzbow's *Black Mass* which Mukaiyama originally commissioned for the *Amsterdam x Tokyo* compilation released in 2000. The clash of piano and noise is both haunting and enlivening, and we can't wait to share it with audiences.

In Colombia, we'll be holding workshops with students at the universities and also meeting with local composers. Dates for those meetings aren't firm yet, so stayed tuned for more info on that.

18 MAY 2019: [Festival Noche Blanca](#), Merida, MX

08 JUNE 2019: [Casa Del Lago](#), Mexico City, MX

向井山朋子

Tomoko Mukaiyama