

You will enjoy more Japanese culture when this crisis will be over

Weekly Cultural News, substitute for monthly Cultural News

June 22-28, 2020

Academy Museum's new opening date set for April 30, 2021 with inaugural exhibition "Hayao Miyazaki"

The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, initially scheduled to open to the public on December 14, 2020, will now open on Friday, April 30, 2021, as a result of the global pandemic caused by COVID-19.

The new opening date of the Academy Museum was announced June 15 by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences and the ABC Television Network..

Coinciding with the Academy Museum opening, the 93rd Oscars ceremony will be move to Sunday, April 25, 2021.

The special inaugural exhibition of the Academy Museum will be the first-ever US retrospective of famed Japanese filmmaker Hayao Miyazaki.

This thematic journey presents original production materials from each of the director's acclaimed animated feature films,



A rendering of the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures.



Filmmaker Hayao Miyazaki will be featured at an inaugural exhibition.

including *My Neighbor Totoro* (1988) and the Academy Award®-winning *Spirited Away* (2001).

More than two hundred imageboards, character designs, storyboards, layouts, cels, and backgrounds—some of which have never been seen outside of Studio Ghibli's

archives—will be on view alongside large-scale projected clips of the most memorable scenes from Miyazaki's films.

The exhibition is accompanied by a fully illustrated catalogue, screening series, public programs, and a selection of exclusive Studio Ghibli merchandise offered in the museum's retail store.

Hayao Miyazaki is organized by Academy Museum curators Jessica Niebel and Raul Guzman in collaboration with Studio Ghibli.

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Academy Museum to open in April 2021 with “Hayao Miyazaki” exhibition

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[The Academy Museum of Motion Pictures](#), was designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Renzo Piano, and the museum will be featuring six floors of [exhibition spaces](#), education and special event spaces, a conservation studio, a restaurant, a museum store, the 1,000-seat David Geffen Theater and the 288-seat Ted Mann Theater

Bill Kramer, director of the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures, said, “I speak for all of us at the Museum when I say that we have been eagerly awaiting the moment when we can share the Academy Museum with movie lovers everywhere. With the unprecedented and devastating pandemic happening around the world and our commitment first and foremost to the health and safety of our visitors and staff, we have made the difficult decision to wait a few more months to open our doors. Thankfully, with COVID-19 safety protocols in place, exhibitions continue to be installed. We look forward to April 2021 when Los Angeles and the world will be able to join together as the Academy celebrates the Oscars and the opening of its long-dreamed-of Museum.”



Academy Museum aerial rendering facing south.

The Academy Museum will be the world’s premier institution dedicated to the art and science of movies. The museum will be simultaneously immersive, experimental, educational, and entertaining. More than a museum, this dynamic film center will offer unparalleled experiences and insights into movies and moviemaking.

Designed by Pritzker Prize-winning architect Renzo Piano, the Museum is restoring and revitalizing the historic Saban Building, formerly known as the May Company building (1939), at the corner of Wilshire Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue in Los Angeles.

The Saban Building will feature six floors, including exhibition spaces, the 288-seat Ted Mann Theater, the Shirley Temple Education Studio, special event spaces, conservation areas, a café, and store.

The new spherical addition will connect to the Saban Building via glass bridges and feature the state-of-the-art 1,000-seat David Geffen Theater and the rooftop Dolby Family Terrace, which will offer sweeping views of the Hollywood Hills.

	<p>March 2020 Cultural News https://www.culturalnews.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/CN-2020-03-March-Cultural-News.pdf</p>		<p>February 2020 Cultural News https://www.culturalnews.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/CN-2020-02-February-Cultural-News.pdf</p>		<p>January 2020 Cultural News https://www.culturalnews.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/CN-2020-01-January-Cultural-News.pdf</p>
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In Fall 2018, Akira Komatsu conducted a group of professional musicians for performing his arrangement of "Pavane" (Maurice Ravel) at an orchestration workshop sponsored by the American Federation of Musicians Local 47, musicians union of Los Angeles County.

"Quarantine musician" extends his activities to "quarantine Japanese lessons"

Japan born – music composer Akira Komatsu recently joined a music video project called "Quarantine Music Chain with Kenny G" with 104 musicians from 16 countries. This music video project was produced by a Hungarian composer and producer, Imre Czomba.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=3&v=iRd5LMJhcK4&feature=emb_logo

Komatsu played his guitar at his residence of Toluca Lake in North Hollywood, Los Angeles.

Komatsu studied contemporary jazz at the Musicians Institute in Hollywood in 1996-7 after graduating from Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan.

At his graduation of MI, he received the GIT Human Relation Award which was decided by popular vote of all students of the graduating class.

Upon returning to Tokyo, Komatsu began teaching ear training, music theory, and score reading at the Musicians Institute Tokyo. He also started composing music and forming his

band for playing his compositions. And his compositions gradually got attentions from filmmakers in Tokyo.

Eventually Komatsu established his status as music composer for top class filmmakers and video artists in Japan. Komatsu also extended his activities to commercial music on TV and radio including "Precure," a very popular children's TV anime program produced by BANDAI Co.

Komatsu wrote a music for a short film for promoting tourism in Gifu Prefecture at the Japan Pavilion for Expo 2010 Shanghai, China. In this project featuring Mino washi paper, Komatsu worked with Naoto Yamakawa, an eminent film director in Asia.

On December 2017, Komatsu moved to Los Angeles from Tokyo for looking forward to his new venues of music. In Hollywood, he has been composing for several media works and appearing on stages as accompanying guitarist at

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“Quarantine musician” extends his activities to “quarantine Japanese lessons”

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comedy shows until this quarantine has been in effect.

In Los Angeles, he has composed for commercial, indie film works and sound libraries. He released 2 horror sound library albums, "Musicbox ghost" from Flippermusic, "Somber Piano" from Counter Communications, and currently working for DA music.



Composer Akira Komatatsu finds fun at Japanese language lessons.

In Los Angeles he also has been meeting with various kind of talented people from all over the world. Among these meetings, one of his friends asked him to teach Japanese language, and Komatsu and his friend fund incredibly fun at the Japanese lessons. Guitar lesson is also his expertise for long time since he was in Tokyo.

Currently Komatsu is meeting his artist friends and Japanese lesson students through video meeting apps every day. He found video meeting apps as a new hub to communicate with people from around the world.

Komatsu is always looking forward to meeting future students of his Japanese language lessons and guitar lessons, and of course his commissions of composing music.

Samples of Komatsu's music are following:

White Deer in The Woods

<https://app.box.com/s/5drz3x5nxa1z47q2iof2d54k23ef1b8i>

Jumping Frogs in The Rain

<https://app.box.com/s/19lqnsrunqxcgrmwws4r7veemuhbav0y>

Dolphin Waltz

<https://app.box.com/s/pvnty3p0gx63o6f4zppnbk3yklrpw7uh>

Desert Road to The Star

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/ai0m0r91zbaxbo0/Desert%20road%20to%20the%20star.mp3?dl=0>

Requiem for Conflict Zone

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/nlf62mm1i56ibye/Requiem%20for%20conflict%20zone.mp3?dl=0>

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By Mariko Watabe

There are dance videos and shamisen videos. But KABUKI HAYASHI (Japanese percussion) videos are rarely found or

discussed especially in English or with English subtitles. I have decided to make OHAYASHI-JUKU video series as I believe this art is too precious to be hidden or lost.

HAYASHI is the Japanese percussion and flute used for KABUKI. It has multiple uses and tasks and are used to convey messages to the performers and to the audience

using sound.

The OHAYASHI-JUKU video 3 <https://youtu.be/fpil5uOoUDs>

is about the “OVERTURE MUSIC,” the musical cues that are used to introduce upcoming stories. These are sophisticated sound cues to set the scene, from sounds of waves or water to set the scene at the seaside, or setting a solemn mood, or even emphasizing someone seized with delusion. Others set a scene of more simple town life, or a more spiritual setting such as at a castle, temple or shrine, and others still can introduce elegant numbers or a festival setting.

Mariko Watabe has been introducing Kabuki dance and music to American audiences nationwide for over 40 years. She is currently living in Los Angeles area. Her activities and performances are found at <http://fujijapanesemusic.org>