

Press Contacts:

John Seroff, GreenHouse Publicity

john@greenhousepublicity.com

Allison Rodman, Japan Society

arodman@japansociety.org**Japan Society presents****OKI: Music of the Ainu****Friday, May 6 at 7:30pm**

Live and In-Person at Japan Society: 333 East 47th Street, NYC

Discover the Indigenous and Modern Sounds of Japan

Fusing Ancient Ainu melodies with Reggae, African and Electronic Dance

<https://www.japansociety.org/arts-and-culture/performances/oki-music-ainu>

New York, NY: March 15 2022 – Japan Society celebrates **Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month** in May with Oki Kano, known professionally as **OKI**, one of Japan's best known players of the sounds of Japan's northernmost indigenous people, the Ainu. For one night only on May 6 at Japan Society, OKI and his band will perform an in-person concert of traditional solo pieces alongside contemporary works from their just-released 2022 album, *Tonkori in the Moonlight*.

Tickets for this event are on sale now.



Born to a Japanese mother and an Ainu father, OKI graduated with a degree in crafts from the Tokyo University of Fine Arts and Music before moving to New York in 1987,

where he worked as a special effects artist on film productions. He returned to Japan in 1992, where he discovered his first *tonkori*, the stringed instrument native to the Ainu people of Karafuto. The rich, reverberating twang of the *tonkori* strings, which are traditionally made from deer tendons, were meant to give Ainu shamans the power to communicate with the *kamuy* spirits that control the wind, rain and other natural phenomena. Inspired and enchanted by the *tonkori*'s sound, OKI would eventually relocate to Hokkaido, where he taught himself to craft and play the instrument.

Today, OKI is likely the most prominent performer of the *tonkori* in the world. His contemporary approach, which fuses motifs of reggae, African and electronic dance music with Ainu folk melodies, has won worldwide praise for his combo, the OKI DUB AINU BAND, the breakout sensation of WOMAD festival in the UK. OKI was recently prominently featured in the film *Ainu Mosir* (2020), currently streaming on Netflix.

OKI: Music of the Ainu will take place in-person at Japan Society, located at **333 East 47th Street**, between First and Second Avenues, accessible by the 4/5/6 trains at 42nd Street-Grand Central Station or the E train at Lexington Avenue and 53rd Street.

Tickets to this performance and more show information is available online:

<https://www.japansociety.org/arts-and-culture/performances/oki-music-ainu>

General Entry Tickets to OKI: *Music of the Ainu* are \$30 or \$25 for Japan Society members. Tickets can be purchased online at japansociety.org or by phone at the Box Office, Monday through Friday between 9am and 5pm at 212-715-1258. Visitors will be required to show proof of vaccination and photo ID, as well as proof of a booster shot for anyone who is eligible, with a four-week grace period after eligibility. For the health and safety of our staff and visitors, we kindly ask that you wear a mask that covers your nose and mouth at all times. Masks with vents/bandanas are not permitted. Respirator-style masks (N95, KN95, KF94, etc.) are encouraged. [View our current visitor policies and safety protocols by clicking here.](#)

For print-ready high-resolution images, to request press tickets, or to arrange for an interview with Oki Kano or performing arts curator Yoko Shioya, please reply to this email or contact John@GreenHousePublicity.com.

About Japan Society

Facebook: [facebook.com/japansociety](https://www.facebook.com/japansociety)

Instagram: [@japansociety](https://www.instagram.com/japansociety)

Twitter: [@japansociety](https://twitter.com/japansociety)

Japan Society continues a return to live, in-person performance with programs in the disciplines of theater, dance, music and more. This Spring, the Society's Performing Arts programming highlights indigenous art forms from Japan's northern and southernmost prefectures, Hokkaido and Okinawa, with two distinct programs: **Waves Across Time: Traditional Dance and Music of Okinawa** (March 2022) and **OKI: Music of the Ainu** (May 2022).

Japan Society is the premier organization connecting Japanese arts, culture, business, and society with audiences in NYC and around the world. In over 100 years of work, we've inspired generations by establishing ourselves as pioneers in supporting international exchanges in arts and culture, business and policy, as well as education between Japan and the U.S. This year, Japan Society is celebrating our heritage through the 50th anniversary of our landmark building, designed by the late architect Junzo Yoshimura, with the launch of a new distinct modern logo and visual identity.

Support for the 2021-2022 Japan Society Performing Arts Season

Lead Sponsor: *MetLife Foundation.*

OKI: Music of the Ainu is supported, in part, by Doug and Teresa Peterson.

This season is made possible, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council and the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature. Major support is generously provided by the Howard Gilman Foundation, Doug and Teresa Peterson, and The Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, Inc. Endowment support is provided by the Lila Wallace Reader's Digest Endowment Fund and the Endowment for the Performing Arts, established with a leadership gift from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

Additional support is provided by the Royal Little Family Foundation, Helen and Kenneth A. Cowin, Dr. and Mrs. Carl F. Taeusch II, Dr. Jeanette C. Takamura, Estate of Mr. Alan M. Suhonen, Sarah Billinghamurst Solomon and Howard Solomon, Nancy and Joe Walker, Dr. John K. Gillespie, Paula S. Lawrence, Dr. Stephen and Mrs. Michiko Levine, Marjorie Neuwirth, Hiroko Onoyama, Lyndley and Samuel Schwab, and Nora and David Tezanos. Transportation assistance is provided by All Nippon Airways Co., Ltd. Yamaha is the official piano provider of Japan Society. *MetLife Meet-the-Artists Reception* is provided by MetLife Foundation.

GreenHouse Publicity | 3021 Fort Hamilton Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11218

[Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by info@greenhousepublicity.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!