

An Evening of Japanese Music: Koto Recital by Aki Kitagawa

20 August 2026

The Embassy of Japan in Cyprus, in collaboration with The Cyprus Institute, present an evening of Japanese music featuring Koto player Aki Kitagawa.

The recital will take place on **Wednesday, 9 September, at 19:30** at the **Costas Stefanis Amphitheatre** of The Cyprus Institute, Aglantzia.

The koto is a traditional Japanese zither with a long wooden body and thirteen strings, traditionally played by plucking the strings with finger picks.

For centuries, it has played an important role in Japanese musical traditions, from its early associations with the Japanese Imperial court to its development as a central instrument in classical koto repertoire. It is performed in a variety of settings, from formal concerts and cultural events to festivals, tea ceremonies, and New Year celebrations. In traditional ensemble music, it is often performed alongside the shamisen and shakuhachi, a combination known as sankyoku ("three-instrument ensemble").

Today, the koto continues to evolve, with musicians performing both traditional repertoire and new works in concerts, theatres, and contemporary settings.

The two major schools of koto performance, Ikuta-ryū and Yamada-ryū, have each developed into various branches and specialised schools (ryūha), contributing to the diversity of koto traditions

Aki Kitagawa is a UK-based koto player and a member of the Sawai Koto Institute, performing on the Ikuta-ryū koto. His repertoire spans traditional and classical works, contemporary pieces, and original compositions. Through collaborations with musicians across the UK and Europe, he explores new creative possibilities for the koto and brings its distinctive sound to wider audiences.

Aki Kitagawa's one-night-only recital will bring the koto's unique sound and versatility to Cyprus.

Date: Wednesday, 9 September

Venue: Costas Stefanis Amphitheatre of The Cyprus Institute, Aglantzia

Time: Doors Open at 19:00, Performance starts at: 19:30

Duration: Approximately 1 hour

Admission: Free

Organizers: Embassy of Japan in Cyprus & The Cyprus Institute

Reservations: Due to limited seating capacity, advance reservations are required.

To reserve a seat, please use the following link : <https://forms.gle/G32bgX96iDkh3z7FA>

* The Embassy will not be accepting reservations by email or phone.



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Established in 2018, the Embassy of Japan in Cyprus is committed to its ongoing mission of introducing Japanese culture in Cyprus through events, educational activities, and grant programs.

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