

# The Seattle Symphony Presents Their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrate Asia!

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Ludovic Morlot, Seattle Symphony Orchestra music director, together with assistant conductor Stilian Kirov, present this fifth annual multicultural collaboration between the symphony, local Asian-American leaders and top musical artists from around the world.

“Because this is the fifth anniversary of our ‘Celebrate Asia!’ program, I felt it was extremely important that I be involved with the performance this year,” says Morlot. “‘Celebrate Asia!’ is a tremendous opportunity for the symphony to interact with many of the different Asian communities in our region, and I am absolutely thrilled to be a part of it.”

The Seattle Symphony Orchestra programming department focuses on collaboration, working with the Celebrate Asia! committee to select national and international musicians.

This year’s performance features a wide variety of musicians and instruments. On piano, blind Japanese virtuoso Nobuyuki Tsujii will be playing, as will piano duo Kimberly Russ and Oksana Ezhokina. Ami Subramaniam will play the Indian violin, with Mahesh Krishnamurthy on the mridangam, the wooden double-headed drum used for percussion in southern India.

“Celebrate Asia!” committee chair SoYoung Kwon reports that the committee has focused on capturing the breadth of Puget Sound and international musical talent.

“‘Celebrate Asia!’ is a very unique event that showcases artists and music that may not otherwise be seen at Benaroya Hall,” Kwon says. “It’s an opportunity for those in the Asian and Pacific Islander (API) community to celebrate their heritage. and it’s an important opportunity for the Seattle Symphony to engage with the API communities.”

Curating and planning this event entails partnerships and conversation with a wide range of groups and individuals. “The API communities in our region are extremely diverse, and having an event that reflects all of those traditions is challenging,” says Kwon. “The committee strives to balance the representation of these traditions in the pre-and main stage performances along with the post-concert reception.”

Kwon and the committee believe the result is a great opportunity for the community to come together to share its many cultures. “I have had the opportunity to meet many wonderful people from all backgrounds and learn about many different traditions and customs,” Kwon says.

“It’s an opportunity to hear classical music from a different perspective.”

*“Celebrate Asia!” takes place on January 27, at Benaroya Hall, 200 University Street, Seattle. Details: [www.seattlesymphony.org](http://www.seattlesymphony.org).*