

Greenwich House Music School
A Faculty Performance

Renee Weiler Concert Hall
Greenwich House Music School
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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YOKO KIMURA-YATES

Works for piano trio, quartet, quintet, with winds

Saturday, March 21, 2009, 8pm at Renee Weiler Concert Hall



Greenwich House Music School is pleased to announce a recital featuring pianist/composer **YOKO KIMURA-YATES** (photo: left). On **Saturday, March 21 at 8pm**, Ms. Kimura-Yates, pianist, composer, vocalist, visual artist, and Greenwich House Music School faculty member presents her original works and improvisation for various combinations of piano, bass, drums, and woodwinds. Ms. Kimura-Yates is joined by guest artists Michel Gentile, flutes; Douglas Yates, clarinet, bass clarinet, alto saxophone; Gary Wang, bass; and Rob Garcia, drums. Admission for this event is \$10 and payable at the door from 7:30pm. Renee Weiler Concert Hall is located at 46 Barrow Street, NYC (between Seventh Avenue South and Bedford Street).

The evening's program features mostly original compositions by Yoko Kimura-Yates, which contain elements of various musical genres and improvisation scored for piano trio, quartet, or quintet, joined by woodwinds

Yoko Kimura-Yates, pianist, composer, vocalist, and visual artist, was born in Sapporo City, Japan. Raised in a music-loving family, she began studying the keyboard at the age of four and was always surrounded by countless varieties of music, including classical, rock, blues, and jazz. In addition to her ongoing classical piano studies, she was a frequent participant, as both keyboardist and vocalist, in rock,

blues and jazz bands throughout high school and college. As a student at Hokkaido University of Education, she began appearing regularly in the clubs, concerts, and music festivals of the city. After graduating, she also developed her interest toward "art" education with her teaching experience of music and visual art in the city public school system. These experiences motivated her to study more improvisational music and to find innovative approaches which nurture sensibilities and creativity towards art education in the USA.

She was awarded the Cultural Merit Scholarship from Sapporo City and the Professional Music Scholarship from Berklee College of Music to further her studies in Boston. Graduating from Berklee with a B.A. in music *summa cum laude*, she went on to receive a Master's degree in education from Lesley University in Cambridge (MA). She then continued her study at Columbia University, Teachers College (NY) for doctoral study in music education, where she was awarded a teaching assistantship and Minority Scholarship.

Ms. Yates has been a member of the piano faculty at both Brooklyn Conservatory of Music and Greenwich House Music School in Manhattan since 1996. She has also taught at the Boys Choir of Harlem (NY), Lincoln Public Schools (MA), and at various private schools. All through her schooling and teaching years, she has maintained a performing career, playing in both traditional concert settings as well as in clubs and special events in Boston and New York.

She has been particularly active as a composer over the past eight years, drawing musical inspiration from her experience as both an educator and visual artist. Last year she wrote pieces for the poems from the story "9.11, My journey of jasmine" by author, Akiko Endo, and they were performed at Nippon Club in New York city on September 11. She was also invited to write music for a documentary about Japanese women coming to New York city directed by Kyoko Gasha.

For more on upcoming events, visit <http://www.greenwichhouse.org/programs/arts/music/recitals/faculty>

!All programs and concert dates are subject to change.

!!Contact Greenwich House Arts for artist interviews and press materials.