



WaFoo Biography

WaFoo is a performing group of seven New York-based Japanese musicians. Eclectic yet aesthetic, the music is an amalgam of modern American music – mostly jazz, and both traditional and modern Japanese music. It's a sophistication of music in one layer, but a strong message for mutual understanding between the East and the West in other layer. The production of WaFoo gives a new definition of modern Japanese arts, which has not gained enough awareness in the world.

和風, the letters of WaFoo in Kanji character first means “Japanese style.” But the band’s name signifies as many more meanings as the character does. “和(Wa)” means “Harmony,” “Kindness,” “Peace,” “Addition,” besides “Japan.” “風(Foo)” means “Winds” by itself, but “Taste” or “Style” in this particular combination with “和(Wa).” All of these combinations became the main themes in the music of WaFoo.

Whether it's an original composition or a new interpretation to the traditional Japanese folk music, the repertoire of WaFoo's award-winning composers and the performance of WaFoo's multi-instrumentalists have been loved by people from different backgrounds. Thanks to the grants WaFoo has received so far, the ensemble had performed for numerous concerts, festivals, and educational programs.

"WaFoo's amalgam of jazz and Japanese traditional elements is very, very easy to love."

- M. Fressola, Arts Editor of SI Advance

"People were in tears; emails and phone messages have been pouring in... Many, many people spoke about how deeply your performance affected them."

- B. Gorrie, Director of SI OutLOUD.



Major Performances

- White Plains Cherry Blossom Festival 2005 & 2006
- Cable TV "MANHATTAN CLASSICAL OPERA HOUR"
(Manhattan Neighborhood Network) March 11 & April 22, 2006
- WaFoo Concert and Clinic at Greenwich Japanese School (CT), December 6, 2005
- WaFoo Concert at St. Peter's Church (Staten Island, NY), October 23, 2005
- October Concert with the Richmond County Orchestra (Staten Island, NY),
October 9, 2005
- Greenwich SeptemberFest (CT), September 18, 2005
- P.S. 22 (Educational program Funded by SI Bank & Trust Foundation GAINS)
- WaFoo Concert (June. 2nd, 2005 @P.S. 22)
- Off-Broadway show "D", June 2005
- Nagasaki Hiroshima Reflections in Staten Island, April 2005
- NYC Culture Fest 2004 at Battery Park (Oct. 2nd, 2004 @Battery Park)
- JuneFest 2004 at Jacques Marchais Museum of Tibetan Art, June 2004
(presented by COAHSI)

Special works commissioned by other groups

- WaFoo Suite
A full concerto composed to perform with a Symphony orchestra. Performed at St. John's University, Staten Island, NY in Oct. 8. Aired on TV (Ch. 56) on Mar.11 and Apr.22, 2006
- Off -Off-Broadway show "D"
WaFoo composed the music of the entire show, performed all shows with actors at Collective: Unconscious, Manhattan, NY, June 2005.

Major grants WaFoo received

- CMA Residency Partnership Program 2006
- COAHSI Encore Grant 2006
- Puffin Foundation General Grants for Music 2005
- COAHSI Premier Grant 2005
- COAHSI Original Grant 2005 for "WaFoo Suite" project
- SI Bank & Trust Foundation Educational program (GAINS) 2005
- COAHSI Performing Arts Award 2004