

Classical & Opera

Playing against type



Pianist Tomoko Mukaiyama brings visuals into the mix, reports **Arun Sood**

Attempting a voyage through 400 years of global classical music in one evening is no easy task, but Japanese-born pianist Tomoko Mukaiyama loves a challenge.

In the first of two Amsterdam performances this month, she'll not only be tripping through time, but veering distinctly from West to East. 'Sonic Tapestry III', at Muziekgebouw on 3 November, will see her perform piano works by classical greats Schumann and Scarlatti, along with the dark soundscapes of the Japanese experimentalist Merzbow, and pieces by contemporary composer Satoh Somei.

Mukaiyama has excelled as a recital pianist for two decades, and she was awarded the International Gaudeamus Prize by the Music Center of the Netherlands in 1991. She went on to perform across Europe, often interpreting the music of Dutch composer Louis Andriessen. Now based in Amsterdam, she's backed away from formal recitals to experiment with other artists and mediums, particularly visual art forms.

'It's very important to consider what can be seen and not just heard,' says Mukaiyama. 'It's natural for me to introduce visual imagery that fits in alongside my music.' For 'Sonic Tapestry III', this comes in the form of her working with a renowned dancer and figures from the world of fashion and design. Further details of the visual elements are yet to be revealed. These will form part of a surprise 'visual des-

sert', which is being kept closely under wraps until the actual performance.

She'll also be attempting to break down physical barriers between the artist and the listener by performing in the middle of the room. 'I've always found it boring when one musician sits on stage, isolated from the audience,' says the pianist. 'When the audience is close, it helps to inspire energy in the hall.'

Mukaiyama's second appearance of the month comes as part of a fascinating programme being hosted at Concertgebouw on 28 November. It's organised by versatile Dutch pianist Polo de Haas, who, like Mukaiyama, is often keen to integrate visual art into performances. De Haas will join

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Mukaiyama for an improvised duet, billed simply as 'Two Pianos'; the programme also incorporates an exhibition of oil paintings by artist and filmmaker Maartje Seyferth and poetry from famed Dutch poet Remco Campert.

'We have faith in each other to come up with something new,' says Mukaiyama of the planned collaboration. 'He also loves adventure.'

Audiences can feel assured, too. Whether with music or visuals, Mukaiyama has earned a reputation for fulfilling her promises.

See listings for performance details.

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How to use the listings

★ Means the event is recommended
FREE All venues, events and exhibitions that are free.

How to be listed

Please send all listings to listings@timeoutamsterdam.nl by **13.00 on the 15th of the month** prior to publication. Information must include any admission charge, times, dates and a telephone number that we can publish. Listings are free but, as space is limited, inclusion is not guaranteed. Late or incomplete submissions will not be included.

Sunday 1

Radio Filharmonisch Orkest

Concertgebouw (main hall), 11.00, €14.25/€16.50. Sunday morning performance with violinist Simone Lamsma joining for Shostakovich's Violin Concerto No.1 and Mahler/Britten's *What the Wild Flowers Tell Me*.

Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra *Concertgebouw, 14.00, 16.00, €10.60-€20.* Ivan Meylemans conducts a children's concert featuring works by Bach, Haydn, Beethoven and Dvorák alongside animations by Eric Robillard.

Anton Kuerti *Concertgebouw (main hall), 20.15, €36/€45.* A masterpianist recital from the Canadian, featuring works by Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven and a batch of pieces by German romantic Mendelssohn.

Monday 2

L'Elisir d'Amore *Het Muziektheater, 20.00, €25-€95.* Donizetti's operatic blend of satire and sentimentality about a peasant and a love potion.

Tuesday 3

★ **Sonic Tapestry III** *Muziekgebouw, 20.15, €23.* Pianist Tomoko Mukaiyama leads listeners through four centuries of classical music, via Schumann, Scarlatti, Satoh Somei, Merzbow, Sergei Zagny, William Bolcom and Atsuhiko Gondai. See preview, left.

Wednesday 4

FREE Lunch Concert *Concertgebouw (main hall), 12.30.* A special preview of this evening's sold-out Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra performance.

L'Elisir d'Amore *Het Muziektheater, 20.00, €25-€95.* Donizetti's operatic blend of satire and sentimentality about a peasant and a love potion. See Monday 2.

Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra *Concertgebouw (main hall), 20.15, sold out.* Conductor Iván Fischer takes the helm for a selection of Mozart works. Portuguese pianist Maria João Pires also guests for Piano Concerto No.23.

Thursday 5

Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra *Concertgebouw, sold out.* Conductor Iván Fischer takes the helm for a selection of Mozart works. See Wednesday 4.

★ **Cappella Amsterdam** *Muziekgebouw, 20.15, €23.* A programme revisiting the power of the Requiem, including the nine-minute choral work *Lux Aeterna* by

György Ligeti, plus additional works by Mahler, Cornelius, Brahms and Reger.

Opera per Tutti! *Vondelkerk, 20.15, €20.* An evening of beautiful arias and fragments from popular operas, performed by Mylou Mazali, the Mazali Opera Singers and students from the Dutch National Opera Academy.

Friday 6

L'Elisir d'Amore *Het Muziektheater.* Donizetti's operatic blend of satire and sentimentality about a peasant and a love potion. See Monday 2.

Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra *Concertgebouw, €20-€65.* Conductor Iván Fischer takes the helm for a selection of Mozart works. See Wednesday 4.

Saturday 7

Borodin Quartet *Concertgebouw (recital hall), 20.15, €37/€39.* The world-renowned Moscow quartet is back in Amsterdam, performing Shostakovich's String Quartet No.3; Schnittke's String Quartet No.3; and Beethoven's *Große Fuge*.

★ **Residentie Orkest** *Concertgebouw (main hall), 20.15, €32/€37.* The dashing young Polish conductor Krzysztof Urbanski takes charge of the Den Haag-based orchestra. Talented cellist Daniel Müller-Schott also guests, with works including Beethoven's 'Leonore' Overture from *Fidelio*; Schumann's Cello Concert in A; and Brahms' Second Symphony.

Sunday 8

★ **The Monteverdi Choir, Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique** *Concertgebouw (main hall), 20.15, €48-€78.* Brilliant English conductor Sir John Eliot Gardiner leads a grand choral performance of one of Haydn's most ambitious oratorios: *The Creation*.

★ **Holland Baroque Society** *Muziekgebouw, 20.15, €23.* Thomas Bloch guests in this programme, reintroducing the glass harmonica to Amsterdam. The instrument creates musical tones from the friction of a series of turning glass bowls, but it vanished from concert halls in the 19th century, mainly due to German superstitions of it being satanic or cursed.

Monday 9

FREE Amsterdam String Ensemble *English Reformed Church, 20.15.* Performing Brahms' Piano Quartet No.1 and Dóhányi's Serenade for String Trio.

Nederlands Blazers Ensemble, Ashton Brothers *Concertgebouw (main hall), 21.00, €18-€28.* Expect some weird and wonderful entertainment as the classical ensemble hooks up with the very physical performance comedy group. Together they're revitalising Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', based upon Mendelssohn's score.

Tuesday 10

Salome *Het Muziektheater, 20.00, €15-€110.* Richard Strauss's one-act opera (1905) is based upon the German translation of Oscar Wilde's stage play. Its libretto tells the story of the princess of Judea, who becomes infatuated with the prophet Jochanaan (John the Baptist).

★ **Cecilia Bartoli** *Concertgebouw (main hall), 20.15, €63-€128.* A huge name in the classical and opera world, the stunning Italian mezzo-soprano will be performing a programme inspired by the baroque school of Neapolitan composer Nicola Porpora. Orchestral backing from Il Giardino Armonico.