

MYANMAR
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FESTIVAL

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Contact: Erina Iwasaki, Associate Director

Phone: 09254073845

Email: myanmarmusicfestival@gmail.com

MYANMAR MUSIC FESTIVAL 2019

Sixth Edition: June 9 to 17, 2019

MYANMAR MUSIC FESTIVAL

Yangon, Myanmar, June 3 — We are proud to present to you **Myanmar Music Festival 2019: Sixth Edition**, which will be held from June 9 to 17, 2019 in Yangon and in Naypyitaw, Myanmar. Established in 2014, Myanmar Music Festival is a unique and vibrant festival, which features international artists in collaboration with Myanmar's emerging and traditional artists for a weeklong intensive training and performances, culminating into a Celebration Concert. It aims to empower and inspire young talents to become artists as citizens while encouraging businesses, civil society, and embassies to engage with Myanmar's artistic and cultural life, in hopes that music keeps touching the heart of a wider and more diverse audience every year.

RUSSIAN CONCERT

This year's festival will launch with an all-Russian classical piano concert "**Souls of Russia**" in partnership with the Embassy of the Russian Federation on **Sunday June 9, 2019 at 5pm at the City Hall of Yangon**. Artistic director and Assistant Artistic Director, Pianists Kimball Gallagher and Aung Moe Kyaw will perform compositions by Russian composers Rachmaninoff, Khachaturian, and Scriabin, including Mussorgsky's piano masterpiece "Pictures at an Exhibition." They will be joined by other special guest artists throughout the concert.

CELEBRATION CONCERT

In continuation of last year's initiative of creating a National Festival Choir or Singing Group, we launched in March a nationwide call for auditions for singers throughout Myanmar and selected 25 young singers ages 18 to 30 from 9 different

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states and regions amongst the 80 applicants. They will be take part in our MMF Music Camp from June 11 to 17, held at the Khayay International School in Yangon. They will receive choral training and coaching, together with Malaysian singers from Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) from our vocal director Yiling Chaing and perform with Myanmar and visiting international artists from Vietnam, USA, and Taiwan. In addition to musical training, they will also undergo a leadership training and will be encouraged to start their MMF Music Club in their communities and do musical activities throughout the year with the mentorship provided by Rotary and Rotaract Yangon. Their weeklong training will culminate in a final **Celebration Concert on Sunday, June 16, 2019 at 5pm at the City Hall of Yangon.**

The Celebration Concert will showcase various choral works in different languages, and a variety of newly commissioned works by Malaysian, Japanese, Myanmar, and Taiwanese composers, which will feature musical collaborations with Myanmar traditional artists from the Ministry of Culture and the National University of Arts and Culture such as U Sein Kalar at the circle drum and U Myo Min Than at the flute to name a few, international classical musicians such as Vietnamese cellist Hong Anh Nguyen among others, as well as special guest artists Win Ko Khine and Ah Moon. We promise you an unparalleled and dazzling show of music and culture.

EDUCATIONAL CONCERT WITH TAIWANESE VIOLINS

During the MMF Music Camp, MMF will also present **an educational concert on Friday, June 14, 2019 at the Khayay International School** in continuation of the “Dear Violin” (親愛的琴) project launched in 2014 by Executive Director Kaiyin Huang’s organization *Kairos Arts* and Artistic Director Kimball Gallagher’s organization *88 International*, to fundraise and purchase 88 special violins made by the aboriginal community of Qinai village, a Taiwanese aboriginal mountain village located in Nantou County. These violins are distributed throughout 88 International’s network to develop youth violin programs in countries such as Thailand, Myanmar, Tunisia, Chile, Pakistan and others. In Myanmar, 21 violins were donated to the Khayay International School to support the beginnings of their music program and it now benefits dozens of their students, who will present a small performance on this concert and throughout the festival. They will be coached by visiting Taiwanese violinist An Mei Chen and Myanmar violinist Thet Su Oo who has visited Taiwan and the village of Qinai in April 2017.

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MRAUK U FILM

The festival will also premiere the long version of “My Hidden City,” a film co-directed by Wunna Kyaw and Barry Pousman promoting the remarkable heritage of the city of Mrauk U in Rakhine State. It stars Saw Nan Ei Shun, a young woman from Mrauk U whose family has been invested in the preservation of the city’s history and culture. The music of the film is composed by Kimball Gallagher and includes Rakhine musical elements performed by Rakhine flutist Win Ko Khine along with drummers from Yuzana Hsee.

STATE COUNSELOR’S BIRTHDAY CONCERT

Finally, all the participants of MMF2019 will perform for a special concert on Monday, June 17, 2019 at 6pm in Naypyitaw hosted by the State Counselor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

All events are free but require anyone interested to RSVP at myanmarmusicfestival@gmail.com and bring their IDs (NRC or Passport), especially for the concerts at City Hall of Yangon.

Erina Iwasaki is the Associate Director of Myanmar Music Festival.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you would like more information about this topic and/or come to our press conference on Thursday June 6, 2019 from 9:30 to 11am at Yangon Excelsior Hotel (Newsroom), please call Ma Padamyar K Khine at 095146509 for Myanmar language or Erina Iwasaki at 09254073845 for English, French, and Japanese languages or email myanmarmusicfestival@gmail.com.