

Beauty of the music across the East and the West



“WaFoo’s amalgam of jazz and traditional elements is very, very easy to love.”
- Michael Fressola, Arts Editor for Staten Island Advance

“WaFoo is an excellent example of an artistic sophistication.”
- COAHSI (the Council of the Arts and the Humanities for Staten Island)

“People were in tears; emails and phone messages have been pouring in....many, many people spoke about how deeply your performance affected them.”
- Beth Gorrie, Coordinator of the Hiroshima Nagasaki Reflections



Biography

WaFoo (和風), which literally means “mind of harmony” or simply “Japanese style,” is a performing group of eight talented Japanese musicians, each of whom has performed all over Europe, Asia and America.

WaFoo was formed in 2001 under the concept of “Beauty of the music across the East and the West.” Eclectic yet aesthetic, the music is a sophisticated and “loveable” mixture of Japanese and the Western music. Based on a solid foundation of jazz, the band features subtle or evident “WaFoo” in entire repertoires, whether they are original compositions or new interpretation of the traditional Japanese folk songs.

The recent performance list includes...

- PS 22 (Educational program Funded by SI Bank & Trust Foundation GAINS), June 2005
- Cherry Blossom Festival in White Plains, May 2005
- Nagasaki Hiroshima Reflections in Staten Island, April 2005
- CultureFest 2004 at Battery Park, October 2004
- JuneFest 2004 at Jacques Marchais Museum of Tibetan Art, June 2004 (presented by COAHSI)

Upcoming performances are...

- White Plains Public Library, September 2005
- Staten Island, September 2005
- Concert with the Richmond County Orchestra, October 2005

Musicians (from left to right): Yutaka Uchida (drums), Tsuyoshi Niwa (soprano sax), Yuuki Koike (flute, alto sax), Kazuo Nakamura (bass), Sanae Asai (vocal, calligraphy), Ippei Ichimaru (bass, cello), Takeshi Asai (piano), and Masashi Sonoda (guitar).