

Mayako Kubo

condensed biography

Grown up in Kobe, Mayako Kubo graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in piano from the Osaka College of Music. She went to Vienna, Austria, in 1972 to study composition with Roman Haubenstock-Ramati, Erich Urbanner and Friedrich Cerha as well as music history and philosophy. She completed her composition studies at the University of Arts in Vienna with a Master of Arts degree.



In 1980, she continued her studies with Helmut Lachenmann in Hannover and Stuttgart. Her son Florian was born in 1982. Three years later, Kubo settled in Berlin and studied musical sciences with Carl Dahlhaus. She is founding member of the society for contemporary music „ZeitMusik“. Between 1990 and 1994 she worked in Marino, a small city close to Rome, Italy. Since then she has been back in Berlin.

Kubo's style of composition is based on her classical piano education, the studies at the Institute for Electroacoustic and Experimental Music in Vienna as well as her interaction with other scenic arts. During the 1990s she moved more towards music theater and developed a very specific, free and expressive sound world for it. „*Thirds and street car noises – both are always present.*“

The world premiere of her opera *Rashomon* 1996 in Graz, Austria, commissioned by the opera house and the Steirischer Herbst Festival, was one of the highlights of her career so far. „Kubo spans the arch with great ease between both main sources of her material: Japanese literature and European music tradition“, wrote Frank Hilberg, the editor and music critic for WDR-West German Radio. The premiere performance of *Rashomon* in Japanese in Tokyo, 2002, was highly praised by the critics and the public. Kubo's second

opera *Osan – Secret of Love*, followed in 2005. Commissioned by the New National Theatre Tokyo, the world premiere was very successfully received.

In 2008, Kubo established YACOB, the Young Asian Chamber Orchestra Berlin, of which she is the artistic director. Her third opera, *Der Spinnfaden* (The Spinning Thread), has been premiered in Berlin in 2010.



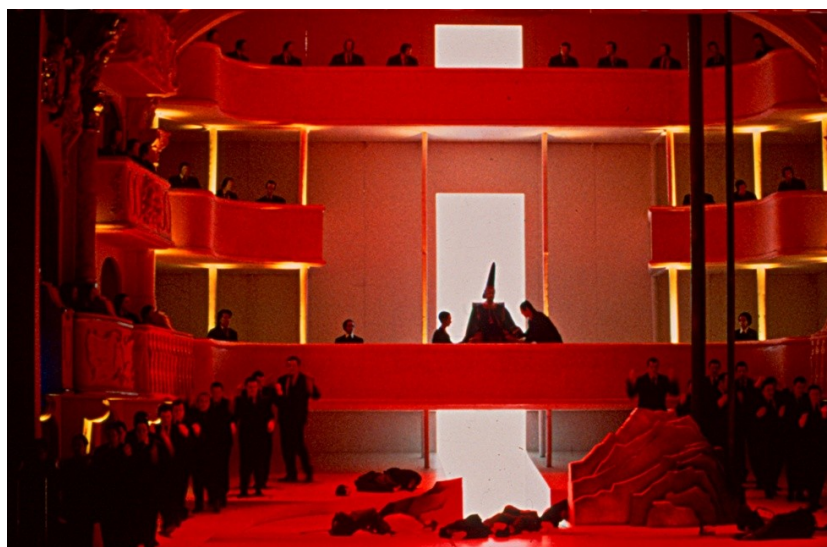
Currently, she is working on *Izanagi*, her fourth opera, the libretto is being written in cooperation with the author Stefan Schomann. Another Music theatre piece, this time about the case of John Rabe and Nanking, is already in preparation.



Mayako Kubo was a Fellow of the Japan Foundation (1999), Scholarship recipient of the Bundesmusikakademie Rheinsberg (2000/01), Fellow of the Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg (2002), of the Yaddo Foundation (2004 - 2007) and of the Bogliasco Foundation (2006).

She lectures regularly at music conservatories and cultural institutes in Japan, Germany and Austria such as in Kyoto, Toyko, Vienna, Graz, Berlin, Cologne and Hamburg. Her compositions are played at the most important international music festivals such as Donaueschinger Musiktage or Wien Modern and interpreted by famous conductors such as Eberhard Blum, Sylvain Cambreling, Peter Eoetvoes, Beat Furrer, Herbert Henck, Konrad Junghaenel, Bernd Kontalsky, Agnes Krumwiede, Stefan Lano, Lin Hwai-min and Martin Mumelter. Ensemble Intégrales, Ensemble Modern, Grazer Philharmonic Orchestra, Hagen-Quartett, Klangforum Wien, Kyoto Symphony Orchestra, Schola Cantorum Stuttgart, Sueddeutsches Radiosymphonie-Orchester Stuttgart, Suedwestfunk Orchester, Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra and others present her works.

Kubo's Œuvre comprises about 130 works. It is published by Ariadne Musikverlag, by Breitkopf & Härtel and by Verlag Neue Musik.



www.mayakokubo.de