

The 150th Anniversary of Lafcadio Hearn's Arrival in the USA
The Open Mind of Lafcadio Hearn in the USA
An Encounter Between the Fundamental Cultures of Japan and America

Lafcadio Hearn Reading Performance in the USA

Kwaidan

Kwaidan

Call of Salvation Heard from the Depths of Fear

New York

Thu. 24th, October, 2019 7:30pm

Japan Society (Lila Acheson Wallace auditorium) **admission: \$30**

(Presented by Japan Society)

<https://www.japansociety.org/>

Cincinnati

Sun. 27th, October, 2019 2:00pm

Cincinnati Art Museum (Fath auditorium) **admission: free**

registration required

<https://jasgc.org/event-3476629>

New Orleans

Tue. 29th, October, 2019 7:00pm

Tulane University (Freeman auditorium) **admission: free**

(The 25th anniversary of the friendship cities between Matsue and New Orleans)

<http://www.japansocietyofneworleans.org/>

Bon Koizumi (Lecture / Supervision)

Shiro Sano (Reading / Scripts)

Kyoji Yamamoto (Music)

Original text : **Lafcadio Hearn**

Calligraphy & design by nanami nanasawa



<https://hearn2019.yakumokai.org/>

Organizer: The Hearn Society Co-Organizer: Matsue City
Cooperation: Japan Society, The Japan America Society of Greater Cincinnati,
Japan Research Center of Greater Cincinnati, Hearn Society USA, Japan Society of New Orleans, Tulane University



Sponsorship: ORIX Corporation USA
Support: Embassy of Japan in the United States of America, Shimane Prefecture
The Japan World Exposition 1970 Commemorative Fund



Lafcadio Hearn Reading Performance

The Lafcadio Hearn Reading Performance was begun in 2007 by the actor Shiro Sano and guitarist Kyoji Yamamoto. It is a performance that combines the spoken word and music. Performances in Greece in 2014, and Ireland in 2015, were successful and well-received.

Sano creates the script using excerpts from Hearn's works, and Yamamoto adds guitar-based sound and music. It embodies the inner world of Hearn, and reflects the subtlety of his sensitive mind. This performance is attracting attention, both as a new method to express literature and as a unique performing arts cultural resource. A lecture by Hearn's great-grandson, Bon Koizumi, serves as an introduction to the performance, and as a commentary on the appeal of Hearn's work, thus aiding the understanding of the audience.

This performance is a tribute to Lafcadio Hearn, who listened to the words of storytellers and retold over 80 stories.



Lafcadio Hearn (1850~1904)



Shiro Sano
Reading

Actor. Raised in Matsue

In 1975, he participated in the establishment of the theatre company, Shakespeare Theatre. In 1980, he moved to the theatre group Jokyo Gekijo, which was led by Juro Kara. After leaving the group, he made his film debut in a leading role in *To Sleep So As To Dream* (1986), directed by Kaizo Hayashi. In 1992, he played the role of Fuyuhiko, a character who is a "mother's boy", in the television drama *Zutto anata ga suki datta* (TBS). This role became a social phenomenon. In 1999, he made his debut as a director with the movie *Karaoke*. In 2006, he directed *A Drop of Dew*, a work which featured a montage of Shoji Ueda's photographs (DVD, 2006, Toei Animation). He has also appeared in films overseas, including *The Sun*, directed by Alexander Sokurov, and *My Way*, directed by Kang Je-gyu. He is listed as a producer for *Yuki Onna*, a story by Hearn, which was directed by the Czech director Jiri Barta.

Sano and Kyoji Yamamoto were classmates at Matsue Minami High School.



Kyoji Yamamoto
Music

Musician. Born and raised in Matsue

He started playing the guitar when he was 15, and entered the Yamaha/Nemu Music Academy. At that time, he was hailed as a genius guitarist, and while still a student, was selected as the lead guitarist and lead vocalist of BOWWOW. At the time of his debut, his tour with KISS and Aerosmith attracted much attention. He has constantly led the Japanese rock scene with his dynamic and powerful sound and guitar technique. He later formed the band VOW WOW, which was based in London and was active in Europe and the USA for around four years. The band was highly rated overseas, and had a chart entry in the UK. It also had a large influence on famous artists from overseas.

In addition to activities with the band, Yamamoto has released a guitar instrumental album, held sessions with jazz fusion musicians, and sung and played acoustically. In recent years, he has been in charge of the music for the reading performance with Shiro Sano, and has produced other artists. With wide-ranging musical experience, he plays an active role on the global music scene.



Bon Koizumi
Lecture

Great-grandson of Lafcadio Hearn. Born and raised in Tokyo

He studied Folklore at Seijo University and graduate school, and moved to Matsue in 1987. He explores cultural resources from the perspective of ghost stories and the supernatural, and conducts practical research, which is used in tourism and cultural experiences. He introduces the "open mind" of Lafcadio Hearn to society in places around the world that are associated with Hearn. Along with the actor Shiro Sano and the musician Kyoji Yamamoto, he participates in the Lafcadio Hearn Reading Performance. In July, 2017, he was a recipient of the Foreign Minister's Commendation for contribution to the cultural exchange between Japan and Ireland. He has published works including *Minzoku Gakuwa - Koizumi Yakumo* (Kobunsha, 1995) and *Kwaidan yondaiiki - Yakumo no itazura* (Kodansha, 2014). He is a member of The Japan P.E.N. Club. Koizumi is the director of the Lafcadio Hearn Memorial Museum, and the honorary director of the Yaizu Lafcadio Hearn Memorial Museum. He is also an honorary professor of the University of Shimane Junior College.

