

**Asia Society and The Japan Foundation**  
Present

**A New Generation of Jazz From Japan**  
**Featuring Takuya Kuroda and Ensemble**



*Takuya Kuroda (Hiroyuki Seo)*

**Saturday, March 8, 8:00 P.M.**

**Asia Society**  
**725 Park Avenue at 70<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**New York City**

The performance will last approximately 75 minutes, with no intermission.



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## **A New Generation of Jazz From Japan Featuring Takuya Kuroda and Ensemble**

THE ENSEMBLE:

**Takuya Kuroda**, trumpet

**Rashaan Carter**, bass

**Adam Jackson**, drums

**Corey King**, trombone

**Keita Ogawa**, percussion

**Takeshi Ohbayashi**, piano/keyboards

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### **ABOUT THE ARTISTS**

#### **TAKUYA KURODA (TRUMPET)**

Japanese trumpeter Takuya Kuroda is a veteran and mainstay of the New York Jazz scene. A 2006 graduate of The New School's Jazz and Contemporary Music Program, Takuya has performed alongside some of the best musicians (Junior Mance, Jose James, Greg Tardy, Andy Ezrin, Jiro Yoshida, Akoya Afrobeat, Valery Ponomarev Big Band) at some of the city's most renowned live music venues including Radio City Music Hall, The Blue Note, The Village Underground, Sweet Rhythm, 55 Bar, and SOBs.

#### **RASHAAN CARTER (BASS)**

Rashaan Carter is entrenched in the New York jazz scene and has worked with Benny Golson, Curtis Fuller and Louis Hayes, Wallace Roney, Marc Cary, Cindy Blackman, Doug and Jean Carn, Antoine Roney, Sonny Simmons, and many more.

#### **ADAM JACKSON (DRUMS)**

Adam Jackson has had the pleasure of working with platinum recording group Destiny's Child, Ciara, Grammy-nominated Emily King, Frank McComb and on the Tony Award winning musical *Memphis*.

## **COREY KING (TROMBONE)**

Since his arrival in New York, Corey King has performed and/or recorded with notable artists such as Dave Binney, Dr. Lonnie Smith, Jason Moran, Chris Dave, Stokley of Mint Condition, Esperanza Spalding, Mos Def, Gil-Scott Heron, Pharoahe Monch, Phonte (Little Brother), Talib Kweli, Nicholas Payton, Jose James, Bilal, Wyclef Jean, Mary J. Blige, Ledisi, Hercules and Love Affair, Mark Ronson, Marie Daulne (Zap Mama), Lauren Hill and Ludacris.

## **KEITA OGAWA (PERCUSSION)**

Originally hailing from Nagasaki, Keita Ogawa is one of the most versatile and sought-after percussionists and drummers in New York City. Since his arrival in America, he has performed with some of the biggest names in modern music.

## **TAKESHI OHBAYASHI (PIANO/KEYBOARDS)**

A native of Hiroshima, Takeshi Ohbayashi began playing piano at the age of two. His debut album, "Introducing Takeshi Ohbayashi" released in September 2011, was nominated for "Best Jazz Album 2011" in Japan.

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## **ABOUT *RISING SON***

### ***Takuya Kuroda's new album on Blue Note***

Ascendant trumpeter and composer Takuya Kuroda made his Blue Note debut with the February 18, 2014 release of *Rising Son*, which was produced by José James. Kuroda, who is best known for his inspired presence in James' band, steps forward here to lead a remarkable band which features keyboardist Kris Bowers, electric bassist Solomon Dorsey, drummer Nate Smith, and trombonist Corey King. James mostly stayed on the other side of the glass in the producer's chair except for a hypnotic version of the Roy Ayers classic "Everybody Loves The Sunshine" to which he lends his captivating baritone. The imaginative guitarist Lionel Loueke also contributes a bluesy, percussive solo to one of the album's standout tracks "Afro Blues."

In addition to anchoring James' horn section for the past several years, the 33-year-old Japanese-born, Brooklyn-based Kuroda has been leading his own bands and has self-released and self-produced three previous albums.

Afrobeat rhythms play a crucial role throughout *Rising Son*, reflective of Kuroda's six-year participation in the New York-based Afrobeat ensemble Akoya. Afrobeat's entrancing shuffle propels several of the album's tracks including the tantalizing "Afro Blues," one of the album's six original tunes on which Kuroda's spiky trumpet melody with urban swagger evokes Lee Morgan, one of Kuroda's significant influences along with Clifford Brown and Miles Davis. The album also features two Roy Ayers' gems – "Everybody Loves the Sunshine" and "Green & Gold."

### **About Performing Arts at Asia Society**

The Asia Society Performing Arts program has been a pioneer in the presentation of traditional and contemporary Asian performing arts in the United States since 1957. It has introduced American audiences to the work of performing artists ranging from some of the greatest figures of traditional music such as sitar virtuoso Ravi Shankar, to seminal contemporary dance companies like Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan, and American artists influenced by Asian cultures such as Philip Glass. The Society has commissioned new works such as *Empty Traditions/City of Peonies* with choreographer Yin Mei, *Wenji: Eighteen Songs of a Nomad Flute*, a bilingual (Chinese-English) chamber opera by Macau-born composer Bun-Ching Lam, *In What Language? A Song Cycle of Lives in Transit*, composer Vijay Iyer, *Kinsmen* with Rudresh Mahanthappa and Chen Shi-Zheng's *Forgiveness*. Current major projects include *Creative Voices of Muslim Asia*, and an exciting season of performing artists from China, Japan, Korea and Lebanon. For more information, please visit [asiasociety.org](http://asiasociety.org)

### **Asia Society Staff**

**Rachel Cooper**, Director, Global Performing Arts and Cultural Initiatives

**Rachel Rosado**, Program Officer, Cultural Programs

**Stephen Mrowiec**, Global Performing Arts and Cultural Programs Intern

**Hesh Sarmalkar**, Director, Events and Visitor Services

**Elaine Merguerian**, Director, Communications

**Eric DeArmon**, A/V Manager

### **About Japan Foundation**

Established in 1972, the Japan Foundation is committed to promoting international cultural exchange and mutual understanding between Japan and other countries in the following three major categories: Arts & Culture Exchange, Japanese-Language Education Overseas, and Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange. For more information, please visit [www.jfnny.org](http://www.jfnny.org)

Major support for performances at Asia Society comes from the Performing Arts Endowment, supported by the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation and Helen and Will Little, and the Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation.