

For immediate release:

4 September 2012

**Vancouver New Music presents**  
***Voices and Echoes***  
**curated by Aki Onda**

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Saturday, September 22, 2012; 8PM  
Orpheum Annex (823 Seymour Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)  
Advance Tickets \$15 regular, \$10 students/seniors available from  
[www.brownpapertickets.ca/1.800.838.3006](http://www.brownpapertickets.ca/1.800.838.3006)  
\$19/\$15 at the door

[www.newmusic.org](http://www.newmusic.org)

Voices and Echoes is a landmark tour of pioneering Japanese artists renowned for their unique, interdisciplinary approaches to sound-based practices: **Akio Suzuki**, and **Gozo Yoshimasu & Otomo Yoshihide**.

The performances will span a wide array of artistic disciplines including literature, sound art, conceptual performance, and improvisation – all converging around a theme of highly personalized, experimental approaches to sound perception, production, and presentation.

Sound artist **Akio Suzuki** will perform on a range of unique instruments including an ancient stone flute (Iwabue) that has been passed down through his family for many generations, and Analapos – an instrument he invented in the 1970s that creates echoes through the acoustic transmissions of a spiral cord stretched between two metal cylinders.

Experimental poet **Gozo Yoshimasu** performs using a unique “vocalization” recitation style, which relies upon a highly rhythmic delivery and intense vocal modulations. Yoshimasu will perform in collaboration with **Otomo Yoshihide**, an experimental guitarist/turntablist and leading figure in the international contemporary noise and improv landscape.

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**Aki Onda** is an electronic musician, composer, visual artist and independent curator. Onda was born in Japan and currently resides in New York. He is particularly known for his Cassette Memories project – works compiled from a “sound diary” of field-recordings collected by Onda over a span of two decades. Onda’s musical instrument of choice is the cassette Walkman. Not only does he capture field recordings with the Walkman, he also physically manipulates multiple Walkmans with electronics in his performances. In another of his projects, Cinemage. Onda shows slide projections of still photo images, shot by himself, as a performance or installation. Onda has curated several major performances and exhibitions throughout North America, including events of Japanese artists at The Kitchen (New York), Images Festival (Toronto) and Time-Based Art Festival (Portland).

[www.akionda.net](http://www.akionda.net)

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**Akio Suzuki** is well known as a pioneer of sound art, but the breadth of his activities and the form of his works far exceeds the normal boundaries of sound art. It is perhaps more as a "quester after sound and space" that he has received the most attention from artists in many fields. Suzuki's journey as an artist began in 1963 with a performance at Nagoya station, in which he threw a bucket full of junk down a staircase. The inspiration behind this performance - the idea that if one were to hurl an object down a well-balanced stairway, a pleasant rhythm might be the result - took the desire to "listen" as its subject. That desire to hear, to listen has remained the one constant in Suzuki's stance as an artist.  
[www.akiosuzuki.com](http://www.akiosuzuki.com)

**Gozo Yoshimasu**, born in Tokyo in 1939, considered one of the most representative figures of Japanese modern literature, has published over thirty books of poetry – among them works that have been available in several languages – since the release of his first book of poetry in 1964 at the age of twenty-five.

His poetry, which he challenges himself to constantly reinvent and reinvigorate, chronicles a tireless pursuit of origins. He also explores the idea of always being in movement. As a traveler his itineraries have initially followed those of the great 17<sup>th</sup> century Japanese poet Basho to widen to a more personal 'pilgrimage' from the isles of Japan to the American desert, Central Asia or simply common streets in most continents in the world. It's no wonder that this constant movement – walking, driving, traveling by train or boat, is one of the foundations of his poems giving them a sense of rhythm, speed in "the pursuit of his desire to go far away"(from his poem *Weaver Girl*).  
[http://www.osiris.co.jp/e/gc\\_e.html](http://www.osiris.co.jp/e/gc_e.html)

**Otomo Yoshihide** was born in 1959 in Yokohama, Japan. He is one of the most well known Japanese musicians/composers in the experimental/avant-garde music field. Otomo plays guitar, turntables, and electronics. Otomo first came to international prominence in the 1990s as the leader of the noise rock group Ground Zero, and has since worked in a variety of contexts, ranging from free improvisation to noise, jazz and contemporary classical. He is also a pioneering figure in onkyo and electroacoustic improvisation (EAI) scenes, and is featured on important records on labels such as Improvised Music from Japan and Erstwhile Records.  
[www.akiosuzuki.com](http://www.akiosuzuki.com)

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The "Voices and Echoes" North American tour is organized by ISSUE Project Room and Aki Onda. The project is supported by the Japan Foundation through the Performing Arts JAPAN program and Asian Cultural Council.

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**Full press kit available.**

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