



NEWS RELEASE

Izumi Sinfonietta Osaka to Depict “The World to Come - Future Now”

The resident orchestra of the Sumitomolife Izumi Hall, the **Izumi Sinfonietta Osaka** (hereafter **ISO**) announces the appointment of the composer **Dai Fujikura** as its new Music Director.

The ISO will thus continue “to be led by a contemporary music composer”, which is the policy established together with the late composer and former Music Director Akira Nishimura (1953-2023).

In addition, there are five principal reasons for entrusting Fujikura with the music directorship:

- (1) Fujikura, originally from Osaka Prefecture, shares with the ISO the value of continually promoting music from Osaka.
- (2) Fujikura, based in London and active around the world, is well acquainted with the music scene in many different countries. We can therefore expect that he will enable the ISO to enter upon a new phase.
- (3) Fujikura is also informed about Japan’s current music scene as well as the ISO, because he has been involved in music festivals and other numerous projects in Japan as a curator and/or composer.
- (4) Fujikura’s motto is to make performers shine and make audiences curious at concerts.
- (5) Fujikura has great respect for the compositions and activities of Akira Nishimura (originally from Osaka City), the former Music Director.

This past autumn, Fujikura and the ISO’s Board of Directors began discussions on matters including their new policies and concrete concert programs.

Under the new slogan of “Future Now”, they will cooperatively take new approaches and think about the ISO’s role while treasuring past experiences.

As the new Music Director, Fujikura created a unique program that the ISO will perform at the 55th Subscription Concert scheduled on February 11th, 2026.

◆ Izumi Sinfonietta Osaka – the 55th Subscription Concert

“The World to Come, The Izumi Sinfonietta Osaka to Come”

【Date and Time】 Wednesday (national holiday) February 11th, 2026 at 4:00pm

【Performers】 Norichika Iimori (Conductor), Lisa Kataoka (Koto),
Izumi Sinfonietta Osaka

【Program】

Pauline Oliveros: The Well and The Gentle

Motoharu Kawashima: Louange à Pi-Ce-Cla-Lin

Akira Nishimura: ORGONE, for Chamber Orchestra

Morton Feldman: Madame Press Died Last Week at Ninety

*the centenary of Feldman’s birth

Work selected from contest entries (for up to a quintet) *new project (see below)

Dai Fujikura: Koto Concerto *chosen by the ISO’s Board of Directors

Izumi Sinfonietta Osaka’s New Projects

• In addition to the twice-a-year Subscription Concerts, we will give the annual “Special Concert” curated by the Music Director Fujikura.

The “Challenge Concert” will be performed by musicians around the ISO members with guest soloist(s) and a guest conductor from Japan or abroad. It will be freely conceived without sticking to works’ formations or established expressions (starting from the fiscal year 2026).

• We will announce open calls for composers across the world to perform selected works at Subscription Concerts.

The ISO will keep seeking interesting music and unique composers.

This time as the first attempt, we will publicly invite composers aged 30 and under to submit a chamber work or a chamber orchestra work (both new and existing work is eligible).

Works selected through the score screening judgment will be performed at the ISO’s Subscription Concerts.

Moreover, composers whose talent is recognized as be highly promising by the jury (the ISO’s Board of Directors) may be commissioned to compose a new work.

(The first contest entries will be accepted starting January 2025. The selected work will be performed at the 55th Subscription Concert scheduled on February 11th, 2026.)

• We will launch a conducting competition to foster young conductors.

The ISO will host a conducting competition for young artists aged 30 and under.

Selected young artist(s) will conduct a work at our Subscription Concert under the guidance of the Permanent Conductor Norichika Iimori.

(Starting from the fiscal year 2026, the details are under consideration.)

Izumi Sinfonietta Osaka's New Organization

Music Director: Dai Fujikura / Honorary Music Director: Akira Nishimura

Permanent Conductor: Norichika Iimori

Concert Advisor: Motoharu Kawashima

Board of Directors: Machie Oguri (Concertmaster), Shinichi Go, Tsuyoshi Yamamoto

〈Music Director's Biography〉

Dai Fujikura, Music Director & Composer

Born in Osaka, Japan, Fujikura moved alone to the UK at age 15 to study under Sir G. Benjamin and others. In 1998, he became the youngest winner (at the time) of the Serocki

International Composers'

Competition. He has received

the Royal Philharmonic

Composition Prize,

Internationaler Wiener

Composition Prize, Paul

Hindemith Prize, the 57th,

63rd, 67th and 70th Otaka Prize, the 19th Yasushi Akutagawa Suntory Award for Composition, Kenzo Nakajima Music Award, Exxon Mobil Award, Silver Lion

Award for Music from the Venice Biennale (2017), Arts Award from Japan's

Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (2019) and others.

He is also highly esteemed internationally as an opera composer. His opera *Solaris*,

co-commissioned by the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Opéra de Lausanne and

Opéra de Lille, had its world premiere in 2015. In 2020, *A Dream of Armageddon*,

his third opera, was world premiered at the New National Theatre, Tokyo. Since

2017, he has served as the Artistic Director of the Born Creative Festival at the

Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre. His wide-ranging activities in recent years include the

composition of an ensemble piece to be played remotely by musicians in different

locations as well as music for many TV programs. His works have been recorded

and released mainly on Sony Music Japan International and his own label Minabel

Records, and his scores are published by Ricordi Berlin.



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