



## Arts and Culture Prize

## MIKI Minoru

Composer  
Born March 16, 1930 (age 79)  
Japan

## BRIEF BIOGRAPHY

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- 1930 Born in Tokushima, Japan
  - 1953 Second prize in NHK competition for orchestra music composition with *Trinita Sinfonica*, premiered by NHK Symphony Orchestra
  - 1955 B.A. (Music), Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music
  - 1964 Founded Pro Musica Nipponia and worked as the Artistic Director and Composer for 20 years
  - 1969 Involved in the invention of a 20-string koto (later developed into a 21- string) as well as fostering a number of skilled koto players
  - 1970 Grand Prize in National Arts Festival for *Music of Minoru Miki* (4 LP record set)
  - 1973-2003 Adjunct Lecturer, Tokyo College of Music (2004-07, Visiting Professor)
  - 1975 Giraud Opera Prize with his first opera, *Shunkin-sho*, commissioned and premiered by Japan Opera Foundation
  - 1976 Composed the film score for *L'Empire des sens* directed by Oshima Nagisa
  - 1978 Produced a two-month world tour of Pro Musica Nipponia and performed with great success in various places including Carnegie Hall
  - 1979 His second opera, *An Actor's Revenge*, commissioned by English Music Theatre Company, was world-premiered in London
  - 1981 Composed *Symphony for Two Worlds* (final part of his *Eurasian Trilogy*) for Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra bicentennial celebration
  - 1983 Composed *Rainbow Overture* for Pro Musica Nipponia Beijing & Shanghai tour, the first-ever joint performance by Japan-China traditional orchestra
  - 1985 His third opera *Joruri*, which was commissioned and premiered by the Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, won much acclaim
  - 1986- Founder and Artistic Director, Opera Theatre Uta-za (now Miki Opera Company)
  - 1990- Founder and Artistic Director, Multicultural Ensemble YUI, and has since then performed both at home and abroad
  - 1993 Organized the Orchestra Asia, consisting of Japanese, Chinese, and Korean musical instruments (-2002, Artistic Director)
  - 1994 National Medal of Honor with Purple Ribbon
  - 1998- Founder and Artistic Director, Aura-J, an Orchestra consisting of Japanese traditional instruments
  - 2000 Order of the Rising Sun  
*The Tale of Genji* was commissioned and world-premiered by Opera Theatre of Saint Louis
  - 2002 Organized the Asia Ensemble, consisting of leading soloists of Asian traditional instruments (currently, Artistic Director)
  - 2006 With the commissioning and world premiere of his 8th opera, *Ai-en*, by New National Theatre, Tokyo, the *Operatic Cycle on Japanese History* completed its journey from the 5th century to the 19th century
  - 2006- Founder and Artistic Director, Hokuto International Music Festival which is designed for Eastern and Western musical exchange

## MAJOR WORKS

MIKI Minoru

## Opera Works

Minoru Miki, *Operatic Cycle on Japanese History (9 parts):*

*Shunkin-sho* (1975); *An Actor's Revenge\** (1979); *Joruri\** (1985); *Wakahime* (1991); *Shizuka and Yoshitsune* (1993); *The River Sumida + Kusabira* (1995); *The Tale of Genji\** (1999); *Ai-en* (2005); *The Happy Pagoda* (forthcoming)

Folk Operas:

*The Monkey Poet* (1983); *Terute & Oguri* (1993)

\*Premiered in English

## Orchestral Works

*Eurasian Trilogy:*

*Jo-no-Kyoku* (Prelude for Shakuhachi, Koto, Shamisen and Strings, 1969); *Ha-no-Kyoku* (Koto Concerto No.1, 1974); *Kyu-no-Kyoku* (Symphony for Two Worlds, 1981)

*Concerto for Marimba and Orchestra* (1969); *Symphony from Life* (1980); *From the Land of Light* (1987); *MAI for orchestra* (1992); *Pipa Concerto* (1997); *Memory of the Earth* (2000); *Folk Symphony* (2006)

## Other Musical Works

*Requiem* (1963)

*Paraphrase after Ancient Japanese Music* (1966)

*Dances Concertantes No.1 Four Seasons* (1973)

*Hote* (1976)

*Autumn Fantasy* (1980)

*Marimba Spiritual* (1984)

*Trio for Violin, Cello and Piano* (1986)

*String Quartet* (1989)

*Ballades for Koto Solo* (in 4 volumes, 1990)

*East Ark* (2001)

*Nohara Uta* (22 songs with violin and piano, 1987)

*Hana Monogatari* (14 songs with Piano, 1996)

## Publication

*Nihon Gakkihou*, Ongaku no Tomosha, Tokyo, 1996. (English translation : *The Theory of Composing for Japanese Instruments*, University of Rochester Press, USA, 2008)

Opera '*Genji Monogatari*' *ga Dekiru made* [The Making of an Opera : 'The Tale of Genji'], Chuoart Publishing, Tokyo, 2001.