

# Makoto Nakura, marimba & Greg Pierce, author

## *The Sea Between Us: A Program of Stories and Music*

Japanese marimbist Makoto Nakura and Edward Albee Foundation fellow and author Greg Pierce draw on their unique backgrounds in music and literature and their personal histories in eastern and western culture to create a program of stories that have inspired music and music that has inspired stories. *The Sea Between Us* promises to engage audiences in a transformative literary and musical journey.



Part one begins with Nakura's performances of Tsuneya Tanabe's *Entrance and Fanfare*, *Short March* and *Songs without Words (Memory of a Lullaby and Arietta)*. Greg Pierce reads his story *Seahawks*, in which a Japanese wife calls the brother of her American husband to help him through a spiritual crisis, followed by Lafcadio Hearn's samurai tale *The Story of Aoyagi*, with projections by Emi Hatsugai and computer graphics by Takashi Ui and Masaru Mitsuhashi. During the story, Nakura will play Akemi Naito's *Memory of the Woods* and the first half of the program ends with Moto Osada's *Slyvan Lay* and *Pastoral Air* based on the Noh Play *Atsumori*.

Part two, 'Rust Letters', by Greg Pierce, is a fictional exchange of correspondence between a man and woman separated by the sea, beginning with Makoto's arrangement of J.S. Bach's *Solo Violin Partita No. 3 in E*, which inspired the story.

At the end of *The Sea Between Us*, members of the audience will have taken the first steps toward discovering their inner composer and inner author and poet, and will have gained a greater appreciation for the emotional connection between music and words.

**Outreach Activities:** In addition to artist's talks, Makoto Nakura and Greg Pierce will hold an interactive session in which participants will have the opportunity to help create a new piece of music and a new story, which may turn out to be closely related. The group will react to a short musical except by telling a story, building it sentence by sentence, then writing it down. Makoto will play another phrase, and the story will evolve in relation to the new piece of music, phrase by phrase and sentence by sentence. Finally, Nakura and Pierce will play and read the entire piece and story which has evolved, perhaps simultaneously.

**MAKOTO NAKURA** is a musician whose artistry and astonishing virtuosity have been mesmerizing audiences for two decades, with his innovative programs of new music as well as traditional classical repertoire.

His most recent premieres have been a double concerto by Carlos Sanchez-Gutierrez for piano and marimba, premiered with the Binghamton Philharmonic (April 2008) and a new concerto for marimba and wind band, written by Toshio Mashima and premiered at the Institute Tom Jobin, in Sao Palo, Brazil, (June 2008).

Working with the spoken world, Makoto has commissioned and premiered Carlos Sanchez-Gutierrez's *The Ocean Calls* based on poems by Pablo Neruda. With story-telling image projection, he created *The Story of Aoyagi*, a Japanese ghost story.

**GREG PIERCE** writes plays and fiction. He has received fellowships from the Edward F. Albee Foundation, The Djerassi Institute, and the New York Public Library. His stories have appeared in magazines such as *Confrontation*, *Berkeley Fiction Review*, and *Conjunctions.com*. His stage adaptation of Haruki Murakami's novel *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle* (co-written with director Stephen Earnhart) has been developed at various venues in New York and Tokyo, including 3-Legged Dog and Asia Society and will be produced by The Ohio Theatre in January 2010 and the Baryshnikov Arts Center in March 2011. He is a graduate of Oberlin, and is a member of the Dramatists Guild. He lives in New York City.



Barbara Scales, Director  
109 St. Joseph Blvd. West  
Montréal Qc Canada H2T 2P7  
Tel: 514 276 2694  
E-mail: [info@latitude45arts.com](mailto:info@latitude45arts.com)  
[www.latitude45arts.com](http://www.latitude45arts.com)