



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Nora Strumpf
202.638.8374
media@ncbfdc.org

THE 6821 QUINTET CREATED FOR 2016 NATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

Washington, DC [March 2, 2016] – The 6821 Quintet, a quintet assembled specifically for the 2016 National Cherry Blossom Festival, will offer rare musical performances for three days only in its world debut.

Named after the distance between Washington DC and Tokyo, the quintet was created by The Ryuji Ueno Foundation as part of the Potomac Music-Lab Project. The group's world-renowned musicians will perform a variety of classical and popular songs at the Festival's [Opening Ceremony](#) on Saturday, March 26, at the Warner Theatre and as pop-up performances at CityCenterDC (March 27, 1:30 p.m.), Union Station (March 28, noon) and Reagan National Airport (March 28, 4 p.m.).

[Members of the quintet](#) include Washington award-winning cellist Tim Park and celebrated violinist Mayu Kishima from Tokyo. Using the finest classical and electronic instruments, the group is comprised of two violins, a viola, a cello, and a piano. The quintet will be premiering a piece specifically composed for the National Cherry Blossom Festival by Washington Award Grand Prize Winner Michael Djupstrom.

"We are extremely excited to perform during the National Cherry Blossom Festival as a gesture of friendship between Japan and the U.S.," said Dr. Ryuji Ueno, Founder and Chief Artistic Director of The Ryuji Ueno Foundation, sponsor of The 6821 Quintet. "We are honored to have the opportunity to share the innovative sounds of classical music performed by these amazing artists with incomparable style and flawless technique to the DC community."

Dr. Ryuji Ueno received the 2015 Mayor's Art Award for Visionary Leadership at the 30th annual Mayor's Arts Awards. His Potomac Music-Lab Project serves as an incubator for classical music, where world-class musicians can experiment with their craft. As part of this project, The 6821 Quintet will be performing most pieces using electronic instruments instead of their usual traditional instruments.

The quintet's performances are part of the National Cherry Blossom Festival's community outreach initiatives, which extend the organization's mission throughout the region. The free pop-up performances aim to highlight the city's gateways with world-class performances in an unconventional setting.

"Each year, the Festival aims to create new and exciting programming that focuses on arts and culture," said Diana Mayhew, President of the National Cherry Blossom Festival. "The 6821 Quintet will add a unique element to our calendar of events and will bring world-class talent to Washington, DC."

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is the nation's greatest springtime celebration. The 2015 Festival, March 20 – April 12, includes three spectacular weeks and four weekends of events featuring diverse and creative programming promoting traditional and contemporary arts and culture, natural beauty and community spirit. Visit nationalcherryblossomfestival.org for more information, and find us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).