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CONTACT: Nora Strumpf  
202.638.8374  
[nstrumpf@ncbfdc.org](mailto:nstrumpf@ncbfdc.org)



## THE 6821 QUINTET TO SHOWCASE CLASSICAL COMPOSITIONS FOR THE 2018 NATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

Washington, DC [March 1, 2018] - The 6821 Quintet, a quintet assembled specifically for the National Cherry Blossom Festival, will offer inspiring musical performances for three days only.

Named after the distance in miles between Washington DC and Tokyo, the quintet will come together under the auspices of the Ryuji Ueno Foundation as part of their Potomac Music Lab Project. The 6821 Quintet will premiere a commissioned work for the Festival's Opening Ceremony on Saturday, March 24 at the Warner Theatre. Other performances will include a cabaret-style concert at the Evermay Concert Series in Georgetown (Sunday March 25, 4:00pm), and a free lunchtime performance at the National Gallery of Art (Monday March 26, 12:10pm).

The 6821 Quintet will be led by Violinist Mayu Kishima, First Prize winner of the Shanghai Isaac Stern International Violin Competition. Assembling some of the finest musicians of our day, the group is comprised of two violinists, a violist, a cellist, and a pianist. The quintet premieres pieces specifically composed for the National Cherry Blossom Festival; this year's work will be composed by Alfa Records founder and producer Kunihiko Murai, who also composed the theme song for the 1972 Winter Olympics. One of his biggest hit songs *Tsubasa wo Kudasai* (Wings to Fly) has been covered by hundreds of artists around the world. He is known internationally for producing renowned artists such as Yu-min and Yellow Magic Orchestra (YMO).

"We are extremely excited to put on these performances during the National Cherry Blossom Festival as a gesture of friendship between Japan and the U.S.," said Dr. Ryuji Ueno, Founder and Executive Director of the Ryuji Ueno Foundation and producer of The 6821 Quintet. "We are honored to have the opportunity to share the incomparable style and flawless technique of the group to the DC community."

Dr. Ryuji Ueno received the 2015 Mayor's Art Award for Visionary Leadership at the 30th annual Mayor's Art Awards. His Potomac Music Lab Project serves as an incubator for classical music, where world-class musicians can experiment with their craft.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival is the nation's greatest springtime celebration. The 2018 Festival, March 20 – April 15, includes four weeks of events featuring diverse and creative programming promoting traditional and contemporary arts and culture, natural beauty, and community spirit. Visit [nationalcherryblossomfestival.org](http://nationalcherryblossomfestival.org) or call 877.44.BLOOM for more information, or check out [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CherryBlossomFestival) (CherryBlossomFestival), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/CherryBlossFest) (@CherryBlossFest), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/CherryBlossFest) (@CherryBlossFest).

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