

Kuniko Kato is one of the most gifted percussionists of her generation.

Kuniko studied with Keiko Abe at the Toho Gakuen School of Music in Tokyo and advanced her studies under Robert van Sice at Rotterdam Conservatorium in the Netherlands. She graduated with the highest honour (summa cum laude) as the first percussionist in the institution's history.

After, she was based in Europe for over ten years, winning major awards including the Kranichsteiner Musikpreis from the Internationales Musikinstitut Darmstadt in 1996 and second prize at the International Leigh Howard Stevens Marimba competition in 1996. In 1997, recorded James Wood's Marimba Concerto in London where her performance was highly complimented by the BBC. She was a guest soloist at the James Wood portrait concert at the 2001 Huddersfield Contemporary Music Festival broadcasted on BBC Radio 3. In 1999 she released her first solo album To The Earth.

Subsequent career highlights include the Japanese premiere of the music theatre production of Wood's The Pure Land (Jôdo) in 2005; in May 2006 the revival of the percussion concerto Cassiopeia by Tōru Takemitsu as part of the Takemitsu Memorial Concert at Tokyo Opera City in Japan. During 2008–09 Kuniko showcased a solo recital at the University of São Paulo (first International Percussion Festival), appeared at the historic Monday Evening Concert series in Los Angeles, performed a solo recital at Vancouver New Music Society and gave the Japanese premiere of Unsuk Chin's Double Concerto at the Suntory Summer Festival.

In March 2009, created a new live performance, Sound Space Experiment – Steel Drum Works, in Tokyo giving the world premiere of Steve Reich's Electric Counterpoint, transcribed for steel pans, marimba and vibraphone by the composer. In 2010, concerts and masterclasses in Canada, Australia, Portugal, Congo and South Africa.

Also performed Steel Drum Works in Vancouver, Saitama and Itami, and at the international music festival Les Flâneries Musicales de Reims in France in 2011. Kuniko's critically acclaimed recording kuniko plays reich, released on Linn Records in 2011, features unique multi-tracked arrangements of classic minimalist works from the 1980s by Reich performing live in Tokyo, New York, Modena, Reims and at the Cheltenham Festival in England in 2011. Conducted a world tour in 2012 including Japan, Paris, Madrid, Barcelona and Köln, a major residency in Armenia and a tour of Australia. 'kuniko plays reich in Kyoto' concert which was presented at Kyoto Arts Centre in 2012, received the prestigious twelfth Keizo Saji Award by Suntory Arts Foundations.

In 2013 her eagerly awaited second album from Linn was globally released, featuring the premiere percussion arrangements of four of the great Estonian composer Arvo Pärt's signature works. The album is entitled Cantus and was in the UK's Top 10 Specialist Classical Chart. This album also received the 'Best Recording' Award at Japan's Music Pen Club's twenty-sixth Music Awards.

In 2015 released Pléiades and Rebonds by the great twenty-century composer Iannis Xenakis. The album was double-nominated in the 'Best Contemporary Music' and 'Best Recording' categories at the Japan Academy Awards. 2017 saw the release of Solo Works for Marimba, which saw Kuniko turn to the cello suites and violin sonatas of J.S. Bach. This album debuted at number 2 on Japan's Classical Billboard Chart, was named the bestselling album of the year from Linn Records and received the Grand Prize at the tenth Japan's CD Shop Award.

Kuniko is strongly committed to music education through percussion workshops, masterclasses and open rehearsals whenever possible in conjunction with her solo recitals. She has been working with learning-disabled children in Japan since 2004, including a series of log drum (slit drum) workshops.

Kuniko is the only Japanese artist signed to Linn Records. She is endorsed globally by Pearl and Adams (NL). She currently resides in USA.

<http://www.kuniko-kato.net>

<https://www.facebook.com/kuniko.kato.357>

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Master Classe Marimba e Vibrafone

7 de junho: 10h às 17h30 – Casa da Música (Porto)

Participantes limitado a 10: Aulas individuais de 30 minutos
(assistidas) 25€ ou Assistentes 15€

As aulas individuais terão um horário pré definido a informar
posteriormente.

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ou Assistente: (15€)

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