

Press Release

Thursday 23 February 2023: For immediate release

TIN DRUM TO PRESENT GROUNDBREAKING MIXED REALITY CONCERT EVENT WITH LEGENDARY COMPOSER AND MUSICIAN RYUICHI SAKAMOTO IN SUMMER 2023

KAGAMI to premiere in partnership with The Shed in New York and Manchester International Festival in the UK



Ryuichi Sakamoto by Luigi & Iango, 2023

Tin Drum—the world’s premier mixed reality content production studio—is pleased to announce its latest collaboration, *KAGAMI*. Created with award-winning musician and composer **Ryuichi Sakamoto**, the mixed reality concert event will debut this June at The Shed in New York and during the Manchester International Festival in the United Kingdom. In 2024, the *KAGAMI* tour will continue with presentations including the Sydney Opera House and Big Ears Festival.

Press Release

KAGAMI represents a new kind of concert, fusing dimensional moving photography with the real world to create a never-before-experienced mixed reality presentation. Audiences will wear optically-transparent devices to view the virtual Sakamoto performing on piano alongside dimensional art aligned with the music. Presented in surround sound, the experience will be both collective and individual, inviting observers to connect to the work—and each other—throughout. While audiences may view the show in a seated format, they will also be free to wander and explore during the hour-long event.

Sakamoto is an international sensation, with a body of work spanning from electronic to classical composition and performance, including original scores for Oscar-winning films such as *The Last Emperor* and *The Revenant*. Reflecting on the collaboration, he writes:

There is, in reality, a virtual me.

This virtual me will not age, and will continue to play the piano for years, decades, centuries.

Will there be humans then?

Will the squids that will conquer the earth after humanity listen to me?

What will pianos be to them?

What about music?

Will there be empathy there?

Empathy that spans hundreds of thousands of years.

Ah, but the batteries won't last that long.

*"In my mind, Ryuichi Sakamoto may be the most complete artist of all time. His whole career has been a relentless pursuit of innovation and beauty," says **KAGAMI Director Todd Eckert**. "With *KAGAMI*, he is presented in concert through mixed reality—a recorded event presented in real time. This makes him the first immortal musician, in a way, and I cannot imagine anyone more fitting for the distinction."*

*"This is one of the first fully staged concerts in mixed reality, and it's no surprise that the uniquely inventive Ryuichi Sakamoto is realizing this new interdisciplinary show," says **The Shed's Artistic Director Alex Poots**. "Sincere thanks to Ryuichi and our partners Todd Eckert and the Tin Drum team for bringing this to life."*

"I am delighted that this groundbreaking project from one of the world's true greats is coming to Manchester as part of Manchester International Festival 2023. I am also really happy to be working with the visionary Tin Drum and Todd Eckert, whose work is helping to imagine the future of

Press Release

performance and art. The project is a perfect example of the Festival's collaborative spirit working with artists and partner organizations from around the world to bring extraordinary, original projects to Manchester in both the live and digital spheres.” says **Artistic Director and Chief Executive of Factory International & Manchester International Festival John McGrath.**

Event dates and ticket information for The Shed and Manchester International Festival will be announced soon via theshed.org and factoryinternational.org.

In addition to the premiere of *KAGAMI*, Tin Drum's 2023 calendar includes the North American debut of *Medusa*, an evolving mixed reality experience bridging art, science, music, and technology. Directed by scientist Yoyo Munk, the installation was developed in collaboration with renowned architect Sou Fujimoto and features his undulating architectural designs. *Medusa* will open at Pioneer Works in March 2023 with a new score by Brooklyn-based composer Kelly Moran.

ENDS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND MEDIA REQUESTS PLEASE CONTACT:

Maisie Lawrence, Bread & Butter
+44 (0)7786 075979, maisie@breadandbutterpr.uk

Jamie-leigh Hargreaves, Factory International Press & PR Manager
+44 (0)7534 492118, jamieleigh.hargreaves@factoryinternational.org

Sam Riehl, Cultural Counsel Senior Account Executive
sam@culturalcounsel.com

Jo Urtasun, Cultural Counsel Account Coordinator
joana@culturalcounsel.com

Download high resolution images [here](#)

About Ryuichi Sakamoto

Ryuichi Sakamoto is a composer, producer, artist, and environmental activist born in Tokyo. Making his debut in 1978 with the album *Thousand Knives*, Sakamoto's diverse résumé includes pioneering electronic works in the legendary techno group Yellow Magic Orchestra, producing globally-inspired pop albums and numerous classical compositions, two operas, and nearly 45 original film scores for directors, including Bernardo Bertolucci, Pedro Almodóvar, Brian De Palma, and Alejandro González Iñárritu for whom he composed the music of *The Revenant*. His film soundtracks have won prestigious awards, including an Academy Award, two Golden Globes, and many more. Sakamoto's activism has spread wide to include various environmental conservation efforts and promoting denuclearization and world peace. After 3/11 in Japan, he became a strong voice of support for the victims of the earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear meltdown in Fukushima.

Press Release

Sakamoto has made considerable contributions to the art world with both solo and collaborative installations and multi-piece exhibitions presented in galleries and museums worldwide. Most recently, MWOODS (Beijing) presented the largest and most comprehensive collection spanning 30 years devoted to Sakamoto's artworks in various media, centering around 8 large-scale sound installations.

In 2017, the documentary *Ryuichi Sakamoto: CODA* (Stephen Nomura Schible) was released, coinciding with the release of his renowned 14th solo album, *async*. Additionally, Sakamoto presented unique performances at the Park Avenue Armory (NYC), later released worldwide as the film *Ryuichi Sakamoto: async Live at the Park Avenue Armory*.

Premiering at the Holland Festival 2021, Sakamoto and longtime collaborator Shiro Takatani presented a new theater piece, *TIME*.

On January 17th, 2023, his 71st birthday, Ryuichi released *12*, his 15th solo album. The new album is a collection of 12 songs selected from musical sketches Sakamoto recorded like a sound diary during his two-and-a-half-year battle with cancer.

Sakamoto has resided in NY since 1990.

About Tin Drum

Tin Drum is the world's premier studio producing content for mixed reality devices. Founded in 2016 by Todd Eckert, this collective of artists, engineers, designers, and technologists blends uniquely dimensional form with the real world to create experiences impossible through other media. The results are without modern precedent and are changing the definition of engagement in recorded performance. Tin Drum creates content in collaboration with world-renowned artists, creators, and performers. In partnership with Christie's, Tin Drum was the first to sell a mixed reality production at auction.

Follow Tin Drum on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#), and visit the [website](#) for upcoming announcements.

About Todd Eckert

Todd Eckert was first published as a music journalist at 14 and became an editor of the US national *OnlyMusic Magazine* at 17. He produced the award-winning feature film *Control* about Ian Curtis, the lead singer in Joy Division. In 2012, he joined the mixed reality technology group Magic Leap and served as Director of Content Development before leaving to found Tin Drum in 2016. Eckert directed Marina Abramovic in *The Life*, which premiered in 2019 as the world's first mixed reality large-scale public performance.

About The Shed

The Shed is a new cultural institution of and for the 21st century. We produce and welcome innovative art and ideas, across all forms of creativity, to build a shared understanding of our rapidly changing world and a more equitable society. In our highly adaptable building on Manhattan's west side, The Shed brings together established and emerging artists to create new work in fields ranging from pop to classical music, painting to digital media, theater to literature, and sculpture to dance. We seek opportunities to collaborate with cultural peers and community organizations, work with like-minded partners, and provide unique spaces for private events. As an independent nonprofit that

Press Release

values invention, equity, and generosity, we are committed to advancing art forms, addressing the urgent issues of our time, and making our work impactful, sustainable, and relevant to the local community, the cultural sector, New York City, and beyond.

Follow The Shed on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#), and visit the website at [theshed.org](#).

About Manchester International Festival & Factory International

Factory International is the organisation behind both Manchester International Festival (MIF), and the landmark new space which will open in 2023, creating a global destination for arts music and culture in the heart of Manchester. Factory International will commission and present a year-round programme of original creative work, music and special events at its new venue, online, and internationally through its network of co-commissioners and partners. It will also stage the city-wide Manchester International Festival (MIF) every other year at Factory International and in spaces and venues across Greater Manchester.

Factory International builds on the legacy of Manchester International Festival, one of the world's leading arts festivals, and the only one entirely focused on the commissioning and producing of ambitious new work. The design of Factory International's landmark new cultural space is led by Ellen van Loon of the world-leading practice Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA). The building is based around large, open, ultra-flexible spaces that can be constantly reconfigured, enabling large-scale artistic work of invention and ambition that isn't made anywhere else in the world. It will offer audiences the opportunity to enjoy year-round, in a new world-class facility, the broadest range of art forms - from major exhibitions and concerts, to intimate performances and immersive experiences. The development of Factory International is led by Manchester City Council, with backing from HM Government and Arts Council England.

MIF23 takes place 29 June to 16 July 2023, opening with a major exhibition at Factory International, *You, Me and the Balloons*, celebrating three decades of Yayoi Kusama's spectacular inflatable sculptures, shown together for the first time.

factoryinternational.org



Press Release