

SCULPTURES

スカルプチャー



ANDY AKIHO  
OMAHA SYMPHONY

# SCULPTURES

Concert in Tribute to the Art of Jun Kaneko

Performed by Andy Akiho & the Omaha Symphony

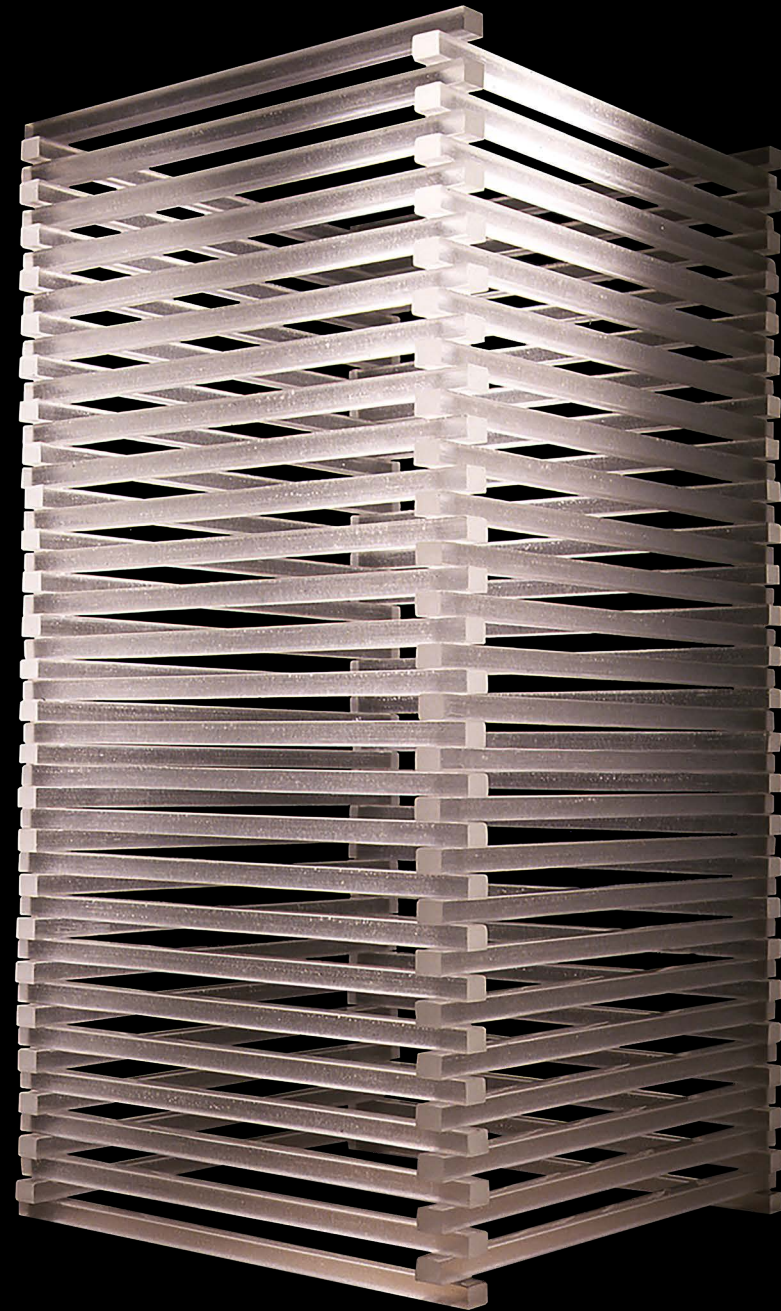
Conducted by Ankush Kumar Bahl

Compositions by Andy Akiho

01. Translucent (6:16)
02. Bronze I (2:28)
03. Petroglyph (3:17)
04. Cylinders (2:20)
05. Kintsugi (4:06)
06. Ma (3:55)
07. Density (2:51)
08. Bronze II (4:02)
09. in that space, at that time (7:26)



TRANSLUCENT





BRONZE I



# PETROGLYPH

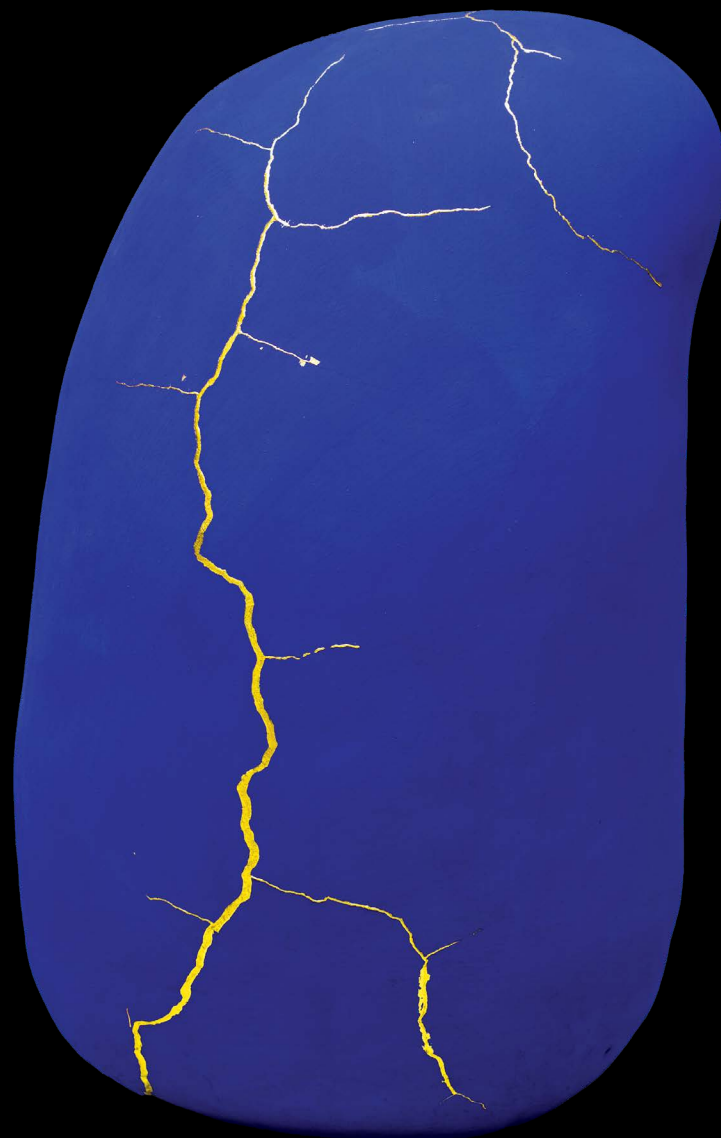




# CYLINDERS



KINTSUGI







DENSITY



BRONZE II



in that SPACE, at that TIME





## PROGRAM NOTES

Written by Dani Meier

"I want my sculptures to shake the air around them.

To stand just like they should be there in that space and at that time.

The form and visual impact of these sculptures is most important to me." - Jun Kaneko

### SCULPTURES

Andy Akiho (born February 7, 1979 | Columbia, South Carolina)

Attempting to musically catalog the breadth of artist Jun Kaneko's work might have been Sisyphean in scope. As composer Andy Akiho began writing, however, certain pieces and processes sifted out, ultimately making *Sculptures* a showcase of ideas that are uniquely Kaneko's own. First, as art historian Glen R. Brown writes, "his interest to repeat the same idea in a different material to see how it looked." Second, specific material choices that create inherent relationships between the piece and the viewer. Third, space itself, in all its meanings, or *ma*: where questions of inches – whether in relation to another sculpture, the viewer, the density of the work, a pattern, or a form – create ripples of consequence.

*Sculptures* is a collection of nine compositions, alternating between full-orchestra, percussion, digital, and in one case, the symphony brass section. Some of the compositions reference particular art works by Kaneko; others, whole swaths of the artist's output. In addition to constant support from Ree and Jun Kaneko and access to Kaneko's work in Omaha and Portland, Oregon, Glen R. Brown's *Jun Kaneko: The Space Between* was integral to the composer's process and these notes.

*Sculptures* begins with *Translucent*, referring to Kaneko's transformation of previous ceramics and clay pieces to new iterations in glass. Akiho was inspired by Kaneko's 1996 *Between Light & Shadow* and 1981's *Parallel Sound*, both re-born in 2001 at the Bullseye Glass studio in Portland. Brown writes, "glass conjures a synthesis of being and nothingness; material and consciousness a tangibility and a pure energy that seems to linger in place with the pale gleam of water or the hard brilliance of a crystalline flame without ever surrendering itself to the confirmation of touch."

*Bronze I* and *Bronze II* – set as the second and penultimate tracks – are performed on one of Kaneko's 2015 Untitled cast bronze and stainless steel Heads. Kaneko created his Heads in pairs deliberately, with the experience of viewing them together equally as important as taking in each individual Head. Brown writes, "Distance is equally and simultaneously part of the whole: a change to any element, whether pictorial, material, or spatial, necessarily alters the balance that unites them all." Unlike their ceramic, glazed predecessors, the bronze Heads are left in a raw-metal state, with finishes that change as the viewer moves around them. The 2015 pair features keys that Akiho and the Omaha Symphony percussion section play, letting the Head sing, groan, growl, and hum.

*Petroglyph*, for brass, refers to a trio of Kaneko's earliest works – all Untitled, from 1963, done in oil paint and sand on canvas. The 3D texture created alludes to future uses of glazes and constructed shapes upon shapes, despite the works' home on canvas.

*Cylinders* is an immediate intersection of the composer's background meeting the artist's work. Akiho, a steel-pannist and percussionist, found Kaneko's *Cylinders* to each carry a different pitch, and composed for soloist accordingly.

*Kintsugi*, written for full orchestra, is the art of repair through the use of gold lacquer. Rather than hiding brokenness or mistakes, kintsugi brings those elements to the eye immediately, becoming a prominent feature. We see kintsugi most often in Kaneko's *Chunks*, *Constructions*, and *Dangos*.

*Ma* is a Shinto concept that Kaneko integrates into all of his work. Shot in one of Kaneko's warehouses, *Ma* features Akiho and strives to showcase the philosophy in both its tangible and intangible nature: the constant awareness of space between creation and viewer, how the piece interacts with everything around it, and even the idea of when, how, and why the viewer and piece are in the same space together.

Before Kaneko began creating his larger-than-life *Dangos* in Omaha in the 1980s, he constructed his *Slabs*. *Density*, composed for orchestra, references these solid, glazed ceramics that weigh thousands of pounds and feature imposing patterns that stretch away from the viewer, an added element of spatial weight. Akiho uses long, growing tones in the strings for this piece, with patterned elements breaking out in other sections.

Whereas *Bronze I* features the Head being played with bows, *Bronze II* is percussive, a variety of striking elements causing the Head to resonate in explosive ways.

Kaneko's largest works are his *Dangos*, referenced in Akiho's orchestral finale, *in that space, at that time*. Brown writes, "Each [Dango] is an island in space but also an element of an archipelago: unique and self-sufficient but reflecting implicit kinship with others that have come before and more that are yet to be." *Dangos* are the product of Kaneko coming to Omaha in the mid-1980s, at the invitation of then Ree Schonlau, and realizing that he could construct large, closed sculptures that often towered over the creator but still provided stillness, intimacy, and calm. When struck, Akiho found that each carries a unique voice but return to silence almost immediately. He worked to capture his initial, overwhelmed reaction to the pieces, akin to walking amidst calm giants. Ultimately, *in that space, at that time* is about one's experience and Kaneko's artistic core: the *ma* created by being with these works, in their space, at the time given.



# PERFORMERS

Tracks 1, 3, 5, 7, & 9 (*Translucent, Petroglyph, Kintsugi, Density, & in that space, at that time*) performed by the Omaha Symphony  
Tracks 2, 4 & 8 (*Bronze I, Cylinders, & Bronze II*) performed by Andy Akiho, using sculptures as percussion  
Track 6 (*Ma*) performed by Andy Akiho (Sculptures) and Jun Kaneko (Voice & Sculptures)

THE OMAHA SYMPHONY (Tracks 1, 3, 5, 7, & 9)

First Violins: Susanna Perry Gilmore, Concertmaster; Ahra Cho, Associate Concertmaster  
Henry Jenkins, Second Associate Concertmaster; Christopher Hake, Assistant Concertmaster  
Ricardo Amador; Phyllis Duncan; Tracy Dunn; Rebecca Kia-Mills; Scott Shoemaker; Melissa Pruss; Michael Keelan; Juliet Yoshida

Second Violins: Keith Plenert, Principal Second Violin; Frank Seligman, Associate Principal Second Violin  
Kevin Tompkins, Assistant Principal Second Violin  
Daniel Fletcher; Lucy Duke; Nadia Maudhoo; David Neely; Anthony Chau; Sarah Hook; Molly Moriarty; Lisa Nielsen; Sheng-Ho Wang

Violas: Thomas Kluge, Principal Viola; Tyler Sieh, Associate Principal Viola  
Margo Romig-Motycka; Bozhidar Shopov; Alexa Brown; Sherrie Goeden; Jesse Griggs; Clark Potter

Cellos: Paul Ledwon, Principal Cello; Gregory Clinton, Associate Principal Cello  
Timothy Strang; Mark Motycka; Holly Gullen-Stout; InYoung Park; Trevor Petersen; Charles Spurgeon

Basses: Nate Olson, Principal Bass; Bill Ritchie, Assistant Principal Bass  
James Giles; Dani Meier; Robert Scharmann; Michael Swartz; Jeremy Baguyos

Flutes: Maria Harding, Principal Flute; Lisa Meyerhofer, Assistant Principal Flute; Nicholas Fitton  
Oboes: Alexandra Rock, Principal Oboe; Heather Baxter, Assistant Principal Oboe; Angela Christine Sallas  
Clarinets: Carmelo Galante, Principal Clarinet; Rosario Galante, Assistant Principal Clarinet; Madison Freed  
Bassoons: James Compton, Principal Bassoon; Nicholas Nelson, Assistant Principal Bassoon; Karen Sandeen

Horns: Brett Hodge, Principal Horn; Austin Ruff, Associate Principal Horn; Steven Schultz; Jordan Dinkins; Benjamin Bacni  
Trumpets: Scott Quackenbush, Principal Trumpet; Federico Montes, Associate Principal Trumpet; Christopher Haas  
Trombones: Patrick Pfister, Principal Trombone; Jason Stromquist; Jay Wise  
Tuba: Craig Fuller, Principal Tuba

Timpani: Jack Rago, Principal Timpani  
Percussion: Derek Dreier, Principal Percussion; Paul Matthews, Assistant Principal Percussion; Spencer Jones; Aaron Williams  
Harp: Chloe Tula, Principal Harp  
Keyboard: Christi Zuniga, Principal Keyboard



## ALBUM MUSIC CREDITS

The *Sculptures* project was conceived by the Omaha Symphony Association, Ree & Jun Kaneko, Ankush Kumar Bahl, and Andy Akiho, and premiered on March 17 & 18, 2023 at the Holland Center in Omaha, NE. Compositions were commissioned in 2022 by the Omaha Symphony Association in consortium with the Oregon Symphony and Music Academy of the West, with generous funding provided by the Holland Foundation, Polina & Bob Schlott, and Martha & David Slosburg.

Collaborators on the *Sculptures* album, films, and live performances include:

Andy Akiho, Jun & Ree Kaneko, Kaneko Studios, Ankush Kumar Bahl, and the Omaha Symphony Association

Record label: Aki Rhythm Productions

Label manager: Dan Elbert

Release date: September 15, 2023

All compositions by Andy Akiho

All compositions published by Aki Rhythm Press (ASCAP)

Tracks 1, 3, 5, 7, & 9: *Translucent, Petroglyph, Kintsugi, Density, & in that space, at that time*

Recorded live on March 17 & 18, 2023 at the Holland Center - Performed by the Omaha Symphony

Engineered & edited by Jamey Lamar (Art Music Recording) & Bill Siegmund (Digital Island Studios)

Mixed by Sean Dixon & Andy Akiho

Tracks 2 & 8: *Bronze I & Bronze II*

Recorded on October 18, 2022 at Kaneko Studio - Performed by Andy Akiho (Kaneko's Sculpture Untitled as Percussion)

Engineered by Sean Dixon

Mixed & edited by Sean Dixon & Andy Akiho

Track 4: *Cylinders*

Recorded on October 22, 2022 - Performed by Andy Akiho (Kaneko's Sculptures Cylinders as Percussion)

Engineered by Sean Dixon

Mixed & edited by Sean Dixon & Andy Akiho

Track 6: *Ma*

Recorded on October 23, 2022 - Performed by Andy Akiho (Kaneko's Dangos Untitled as Percussion) & Jun Kaneko (Voice & Dangos)

Engineered & edited by Andy Akiho

Mixed by Sean Dixon & Andy Akiho

Mastered by Adam Ayan at Ayan Mastering on August 10, 14, & 21, 2023

Produced by Andy Akiho & Sean Dixon

## ALBUM ART & DESIGN

All original artwork by Jun Kaneko

Album art direction & design by Andy Akiho

Album Cover: Kaneko's Untitled, Head 2019 (hand glazed cast raku ceramics, 69" x 20" x 24") - Andy Akiho, photo

*Translucent*: Kaneko's Glass Sculpture, Untitled from *Parallel Sound*, 2001 (cast glass, 79" x 42" x 42") - Russell Johnson, photo

*Bronze I*: Kaneko's Untitled, Head 2015 (cast bronze & stainless steel, 122.5" x 52" x 67") - Andy Akiho & Pam Fanelli, photo

*Petroglyph*: Kaneko's Untitled, Painting, 1963 (oil paint & sand on canvas, 60" x 47.75" x 1.25") - EG Schempf, photo

*Cylinders*: Photo of Kaneko's Untitled, Wall Cylinders, 2017 (hand glazed cast raku ceramics, each 13.25" x 11" x 11") - Andy Akiho, photo

*Kintsugi*: Kaneko's Untitled, Dango, Seika Series, 2009 (hand built & glazed ceramics + gold lacquer, 26" x 14" x 13") - Colin Conces, photo

*Ma*: Kaneko's Untitled, Head, 2018 (hand built & glazed ceramics, 117" x 70.5" x 86.25") - Colin Conces, photo

*Density*: Kaneko's Untitled, Construction, 1985 (hand built & glazed ceramics, 8" x 7" x 4") - Dirk Bakker, photo

*Bronze II*: Kaneko's *Passion*, 2010 (cast bronze & stainless steel, L: 76" x 29" x 33" / R: 76" x 28" x 35") - Colin Conces, photo

*in that space, at that time*: Kaneko's Untitled, Dango, 1993 (hand built & glazed ceramics, 75" x 34" x 24") - Dirk Baker, photo

## SPECIAL THANKS

Ree & Jun, Kay, Tanya, Kenji, Jon, Yoko, Masato, Aya, Kai, Umi, Ian, Mari, Ken, Toyoko & Hori, Dan, Chelsea, Serina, Kenn, Jeff, Kris & Minh

### OMAHA SYMPHONY TEAM

Jennifer Boomgaarden Daoud, Kyra Hansen, Dani Meier, Erik Thorstensen, Yari Figueroa, Max Aden, Marshall Carby, Jimmy Lewis, Lindsay Corbin, Emily Duffin, John Coate, Jeff Baron, Sara Baguyos, Tracy Bass, Mark Haar, Alejandro Gómez Guillén, Esmeralda Moreno Villanueva, Jamie Pham, Derek Dreier, Rob O'Brien, Paul Matthews, Hannah Weaver, Clete Baker, Bruce Carpenter, Luke Scroggin, Jake Saner, Michael Arch, Erik Rudd, IATSE Local No. 42, Omaha Performing Arts, University of Nebraska Omaha Music Department, and Dog and Pony Productions

### KANEKO TEAM

Trevor Lare, Susan Schonlau, Pam Fanelli, Maggie Sather, Michael Thomas Hurley, Garet Reynek, Jack Doloszycki, Russell Williams, & Colleen Riordan



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