

The Japan Foundation Awards 2018 Go to Yoko Tawada, Toshio Hosokawa, and Spanish-Japanese Cultural Center of the University of Salamanca

Since 1973, the Japan Foundation has annually presented the Japan Foundation Awards to individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to promoting international mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and other countries through academic, artistic, and other cultural pursuits.

For 2018, which marks the 46th anniversary, the three recipients listed below have been selected after proceeding through the screening of 72 applications nominated by experts and the general public.

The awards recipients will be presented with a certificate and an award of 3 million yen at the awards ceremony, which will take place in October.

The Recipients

■ Yoko Tawada (Poet and Writer)

A bilingual writer broadening the horizons of Japanese literature

Yoko Tawada is a bilingual writer who freely transcends the borders and languages of Japan and Germany, creating a steady stream of poetry and novels over the years. Her writings have been the focus of many international literary conferences and society meetings in Japan, North America, and Europe. By energizing international, cross-cultural communication, she has contributed immensely to the advancement of mutual understanding transcending the walls of nations and cultures. We hope that she will continue to boldly blaze new paths through uncharted realms and to delight us with an ever richer music of words.



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■ Toshio Hosokawa (Composer)

A globetrotting composer at the forefront of Japan's classical music scene

Pursuing his creative activities in mainly Europe and Japan, Toshio Hosokawa has firmly cemented his reputation as an inspired composer by crafting diverse works commissioned by major music festivals, orchestras, opera houses, and artists across Europe and North America. Many of his works, including the operas *Hanjo* and *Matsukaze*, have been premiered by world-class artists and continue to be performed globally as part of the contemporary repertoire. Through those performances his music, embodying messages that Japanese must never forget, has helped to advance mutual understanding between Japan and other countries. We hope that in the years ahead he will continue to shine brightly as an outstanding creator of musical artistry.



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■ Spanish-Japanese Cultural Center of the University of Salamanca

A hub for communicating Japanese culture in Spain

One of Europe's oldest universities, the University of Salamanca is a world-class center of scholarship and international exchange. It is home to Empress Michiko Hall, the only cultural center in the world granted permission to bear the Empress' name, and has a library with many books related to Japan. For years, the university's Spanish-Japanese Cultural Center has promoted academic and cultural exchange in ways that have strengthened the bonds of friendship between Japan and Spain, and fostered mutual understanding in the international community. This year marks the university's 800th anniversary and the 150th anniversary of the establishment of Spanish-Japanese diplomatic ties, and we hope that the university and its Spanish-Japanese Cultural Center will continue to flourish many years to come.



Past recipients of the Japan Foundation Awards (year conferred)

Akira Kurosawa (1982), Donald Keene (1983), Seiji Ozawa (1988), Toru Takemitsu (1993), Ikuma Dan (1998), Hayao Miyazaki (2005), Haruki Murakami (2012), Isao Tomita (2015), and others

■Yoko Tawada (Poet and Writer) [Japan]



Yoko Tawada freely transcends the borders and languages of her native Japan and Germany, her home since 1982, creating a steady stream of poetry and novels over the years. Her works in German and Japanese have received high acclaim, attested by the many prestigious awards she has earned in both countries. As a bilingual writer of such caliber, she is a unique figure not seen before in modern Japanese literary history, and she vibrantly points to a new direction for the future of world literature.

Rather than write certain works in Japanese and others in German, Tawada has explored the realm between the two languages through diverse approaches, including composing a text in one language and then translating it into the other, or simultaneously creating German and Japanese versions of the same story. She also avidly gives readings at venues around the world, holding more than 1,000 to date.

This passionate outreach has helped to attract a global following for Tawada's writings, which have been translated into many languages, and have been the focus of many international literary conferences and scholarly society meetings in Japan and the West. In these and other ways, her creations have energized international communication across borders and languages.

Writing in two languages and pursuing activities not confined by national borders, Tawada has pioneered a new transboundary realm of literature, while helping to further free Japanese literature from the language barriers that confine it. Attuning her ears to the wondrous music of words that resonates within and outside her native tongue, she takes us along on mirthful adventures to the fertile plain between languages, where we travel the depths of human absurdity, comicalness, and fear. This experimental endeavor is a journey to the world of profoundly human 21st century literature.

Through her cross-cultural literary activities Tawada has helped to advance true mutual understanding that breaks through the walls of nations and cultures. We present her with the Japan Foundation Award in the hope that she will continue to boldly blaze new paths through uncharted realms and to delight us with an ever richer music of words.

【Profile】

Yoko Tawada was born in Tokyo in 1960, educated at Waseda University and has lived in Germany since 1982, where she received her Ph.D. in German literature. She received the prestigious Akutagawa Prize for *The Bridegroom Was a Dog*. She writes in both German and Japanese, and in 1996, she won the Adalbert-von-Chamisso Prize, a German award recognizing foreign writers for their contributions to German culture. She also received the Goethe-Medal, an official decoration of the Federal Republic of Germany and the prestigious Kleist Prize (2016).

【Photo】 Yves Noir

■Toshio Hosokawa (Composer) [Japan]



Toshio Hosokawa, pursuing his creative activities in mainly Europe and Japan, has firmly cemented his reputation as one of Japan's leading composers by crafting diverse works commissioned by major music festivals, orchestras, opera houses, and artists across Europe and North America.

Hosokawa studied composition at the Berlin University of the Arts for ten years starting in 1976. Since the performance of his compositions at the Darmstadt International Summer Courses for New Music in 1980, he has produced many outstanding works that always left the world waiting for the next. Among them are creations that were premiered to great success by some of the world's top conductors and performers, and continue to be

performed today around the world as part of the contemporary repertoire. Examples include *Hanjo* (2004), an opera commissioned by the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, *Circulating Ocean* (2005), an orchestral work commissioned by the Salzburg Festival and premiered by the Vienna Philharmonic, *Matsukaze* (2011), an opera based on a Noh play of the same name and directed by Sasha Waltz, and *Horn Concerto – Moment of Blossoming*, commissioned jointly by the Berlin Philharmonic, Barbican Centre, and Concertgebouw.

As Hosokawa has expressed in interviews, a central theme that drives his compositions is the conflict between the human desire to be one with nature and the reality that humans are destroying nature. He listens closely to the many different sounds of the natural world and weaves them into a score together with the emotions that arise from futile situations. The shock he felt from the Great East Japan Earthquake inspired him to compose two pieces in memory of the victims, *Threnody for Viola Solo* (2011) and *Meditation* for orchestra (2012), as well as another two that depict a mother who has lost her child to the tsunami generated by the earthquake—*Klage* for soprano and orchestra (2013) and the opera *Stilles Meer* (2014). In July of this year, his sixth opera, *Erdbeben. Träume* was premiered in Stuttgart. This work was produced based on the novel by Heinrich von Kleist *The Chile Earthquake* (1806).

Hosokawa's musical compositions, embodying messages that Japanese must never forget, have been performed across the world, contributing to the advancement of mutual understanding. We are awarding him with the Japan Foundation Award in anticipation of his further contributions in the years to come.

[Profile]

Born in Hiroshima in 1955. He studied in Germany for ten years starting in 1976, learning composition under Isang Yun at the Berlin University of the Arts, and under Klaus Huber at the Hochschule für Musik Freiburg. In 1980, he participated for his first time in the Darmstadt International Summer Courses for New Music, and presented his works there. He then launched his career as a composer active mainly in Europe and Japan. As one of Japan's leading composers, he has earned international acclaim for his many works commissioned by major orchestras, music festivals, opera houses, and artists across Europe and North America. In 2012, he was elected to the Bavarian Academy of Fine Arts and received the Medal of Honor with Purple Ribbon from the Government of Japan. He currently serves as Music Director for the Takefu International Music Festival, and as a guest professor at Tokyo College of Music and at Elisabeth University of Music (in Hiroshima, Japan).

[Photo] Kaz Ishikawa

■ Spanish-Japanese Cultural Center of the University of Salamanca [Spain]



The University of Salamanca is celebrating its 800th anniversary this year as one of Europe's oldest universities, serving as a world-class center of scholarship and international exchange that has led in disciplines such as international law, philosophy, and literature from medieval times to today. Since the establishment of diplomatic ties between Japan and Spain, the university has hosted many Japanese researchers, students, and diplomatic service trainees.

The current Emperor and Empress of Japan have visited the university twice. On their first visit, they were Crown Prince and Crown Princess. Their visits inspired the establishment of the Spanish-Japanese Cultural Center of the University of Salamanca in 1999. Since then, the Center, which will mark its 20th anniversary in 2019, has consistently played a central role in the maintenance and strengthening of Japanese-Spanish relations. Its facilities include the Empress Michiko Hall, the only cultural center in the world to have been granted permission to bear the Empress' name, and the Ambassador Eikichi Hayashiya Library of Japanese Studies, a repository of books related to Japan.

The Spanish-Japanese Cultural Center actively carries out a broad array of extremely high-quality activities throughout the year to promote exchange with Japan, including programs for Japanese language education and introducing Japanese culture, and seminars on Japan's history, politics, international relations, and society. Every year it hosts the Japan Culture Week with the full support of the Japanese Embassy in Spain and the Japan Foundation. This event spans many different activities for sharing Japanese culture with participants, who include not only Spanish students, but also the university's international researchers and students, as well as local residents. In 2017, the Center featured a number of programs attended by the university's president and other leaders. The programs include the Fourth Symposium of the Spanish Association of Japanese Language Teachers, a Japanese doll exhibition, and "Japanese Design Today 100," a traveling exhibition organized by the Japan Foundation. These and other projects have earned the Spanish-Japanese Cultural Center high acclaim both domestically and internationally.

For many years, the Spanish-Japanese Cultural Center has promoted academic and cultural exchange in ways that have advanced the bonds of friendship between Japan and Spain, and mutual understanding in the international community, making a contribution highly deserving of the Japan Foundation Award. We bestow this award in a year that marks the 150th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Spain and the 800th anniversary of the University of Salamanca, with the hope that the Spanish-Japanese Cultural Center will continue to flourish for many years to come.

[Photo] The gate of Spanish-Japanese Cultural Center of the University of Salamanca

■ About the Japan Foundation (<http://www.jpf.go.jp/e/index.html>)

The Japan Foundation is Japan's only institution dedicated to carrying out comprehensive international cultural exchange programs throughout the world. The Japan Foundation was established in October 1972 as a special legal entity supervised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In October 2003, it was reorganized as an independent administrative institution. The Japan Foundation has 25 overseas offices in 24 countries (including two Asia Center liaison offices). To cultivate friendship and ties between Japan and the world, the Japan Foundation creates global opportunities to foster friendship, trust, and mutual understanding through culture, language, and dialogue.