

About Youmi Kimura

Born in Osaka, Japan, the singer and lyre performer became famous in 2001 with her song 'Always With Me', the closing theme to the Academy Award winning 'Spirited Away'. In 2004, she went on to compose the ending theme for the Academy Award nominated 'Howl's Moving Castle', "The Promise of the World". She has great admiration for director Hayao Miyazaki's work, and their mutual respect began the wonderful collaboration that took place during these two films. The concert will showcase many songs, including those from Spirited Away, Princess Mononoke and My Neighbour Totoro.



Spirited Away with Youmi

About the concert

Eminence begins its suite of concerts in Melbourne with Spirited Away with Youmi. Held in **Melbourne Town Hall on Sunday the 2nd of July at 12pm** and **Sydney Town Hall on Thursday 6th of July 2006, 7:30pm**, the Japanese singer and lyre performer will perform selected pieces from Studio Ghibli films including Spirited Away, Princess Mononoke and My Neighbour Totoro. Celebrate the Japanese Tanabata Festival in style with Youmi! The festival is normally held on July 7th or August 7th, and celebrates the meeting of Orihime and Hikoboshi who were separated by the Milky Way. The two lovers were only allowed to meet once a year and this is celebrated in present day Japan by writing wishes on tanzaku (small pieces of paper) and hanging them on bamboo.



At the concert the audience will be able to write their own wishes for Tanabata, and Youmi Kimura will draw some at random to win prizes! Eminence wishes to encourage the community to not only learn about Japanese culture, but to become involved in it. Make sure you write your wish at the concert!

About ‘Spirited Away’



‘Spirited Away’ released in 2001 by the Japanese anime studio Studio Ghibli, directed by famed animator Hayao Miyazaki. Spirited Away is arguably the most famous anime film of all time. Many Studio Ghibli films have rivaled it's popularity in Japan, yet no previous anime film has attracted such a wide audience and universal acclaim across the globe. The film was named Best Animated Feature at the 75th Academy Awards. It was the first anime film to win an Academy Award, and notably it won a Best Animated Feature Oscar before any other traditionally hand-drawn films. In fact, no hand-drawn film has ever won the award. Shrek, the first winner, was made from CGI animation.

Users of the Internet Movie Database have voted the film among "The Top 250 Rated Films" as well as "The Top Rated Animation Title.

Spirited Away follows the fanciful adventures of a ten-year old girl named ‘Chihiro’, who discovers a secret world when she and her parents get lost and venture through a hillside tunnel. After her parents undergo a mysterious transformation, Chihiro must fend for herself as she encounters



strange spirits, assorted creatures and grump sorceress who seeks to prevent her from returning to the human world. Chihiro embarks on a journey that sees her assume adult responsibilities and set aside her self-centeredness for the good of others. With the support of her friends, she is introduced to a world without the shelter of parents and must adapt to survive!

Media Release

A Night In Fantasia 2006 (ANIF06) ----

Music From FINAL FANTASY & STUDIO GHIBLI With Special Guests

A new concert for the popular FINAL FANTASY video game and Studio Ghibli Anime will be performed in both Sydney town hall and Melbourne town hall. The concert will be conducted by Philip Chu performed by Eminence Symphony Orchestra and special guests with backdrop of high definition screen displaying scenes from video games and Studio Ghibli anime.

Eminence begins its suite of concerts in with Spirited Away with Youmi. Held in Melbourne Town Hall on Sunday the 2nd of July at 12pm, the Japanese singer and lyre performer will perform selected pieces from Studio Ghibli films including Spirited Away, Princess Mononoke and My Neighbour Totoro.



Following this concert, A Night in Fantasia 2006 will begin in Melbourne Town Hall on the same day at 3pm, followed by the 7:30pm performance. Eager Melbourne fans can rejoice that Eminence's signature concert will be performed outside of Sydney for the first time. Featuring music from Studio Ghibli films and the Final Fantasy series, the night will also feature footage from Ghibli, a world first. The concert will also premiere music from Final Fantasy XII, which will see a western release late this year.

Sydney fans will be able to see Spirited Away with Youmi on Thursday the 6th of July at 7:30pm at Sydney Town Hall. A Night in Fantasia 2006 will be held on Friday the 7th of July at 3pm and 7:30pm, in the same venue.

Featuring the Eminence Symphony Orchestra, A Night in Fantasia 2006 will feature the following special guest artist:

Guest Artist: Youmi Kimura

Original singer and composer of Oscar Award winning "Spirited Away" and composer for "Howl's Moving Castle"

ANIF06 Trailer can be found on the ANIF06 page on



eminenceonline.com

3 ANIF04 Videos available to watch on Media page on emineceonline.com

About FINAL FANTASY and its Music composer Nobuo Uematsu



FINAL FANTASY is one of the best-selling video game franchises in the world, with more than 60 million units sold worldwide. The first FINAL FANTASY was released in 1987 in Japan and 1990 in North America. Spanning multiple platforms, the long-running series has introduced the world of cinematic role-playing games (RPGs) to millions of gamers around the globe.

Melding superior graphics

and advanced game play with a rich storyline and moving soundtrack; FINAL FANTASY's worldwide fan base continues to grow.



An accomplished composer and musician, Nobuo Uematsu has been responsible for the sweeping, epic scores in the FINAL FANTASY series. Well known for its ability to stir emotion in players, his music has changed gamers' perceptions and the standards of video game music forever. The music has led to a successful line of soundtracks and solo projects for Uematsu and has been brought to new life in live orchestral concerts since 2002. The music from the game series has grown to such popularity that veteran composer Uematsu was named as one of the ["Innovators" in Time Magazine's "Time 100: The Next Wave—Music" feature](#). In October 2004, Uematsu formed Smile Please Co., Ltd. and continues to compose for Square Enix along with several other clients.

About Studio Ghibli

Studio Ghibli Inc. is a [Japanese animation film studio](#),

Founded in 1985, it is headed by the acclaimed director [Hayao Miyazaki](#) along with his colleague and mentor [Isao Takahata](#), as

well as the studio's executive managing director and long-time

producer [Toshio Suzuki](#). Its origins date back to [1983](#), with the film [Nausicaä of the Valley of Wind](#),

which was popularised as a serialized [manga](#) in a publication of [Tokuma Shoten's Animage](#)

magazine after the original screenplay was rejected. The film was eventually produced by Topcraft

and the film's success spurred the formation of Ghibli. Tokuma is the parent company of Studio

Ghibli, and has provided [Disney](#) with the video rights to eight of the

films and global distribution rights to [Princess Mononoke](#) and [Spirited](#)

[Away](#). Miyazaki's latest film,

[Howl's Moving Castle](#), was

actually based on a book by

British author [Diana Wynne Jones](#), published in several

countries including Canada and the United States. Composer

[Joe Hisaishi](#) has provided the soundtrack for all of Miyazaki's

Studio Ghibli films.



About Eminence Symphony Orchestra

Founded in 2003, *Eminence* came to birth as an orchestra that endeavours to resurrect the popularity of classical music, whose general appeal is currently stagnant. In the words of one newspaper, the internationally celebrated *Eminence* is a revolution.



Composed of Australia's finest young professionals, *Eminence* musicians came from many other prestigious establishments including Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Australian Chamber Orchestra, Australian Opera and Ballet Orchestra, Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Tasmanian Symphony Orchestra, Jeunesses Musicales World Orchestra, Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra and so forth.

Many elite players have performed as International Soloist with major worldwide orchestras won diverse international competitions as well as having performed for dignitaries including former US President Bill Clinton, Japanese Prime Minister Junichi Koizumi and Crown Princess Mary of Denmark.



Eminence Website: <http://www.eminenceonline.com> (More information and media available)

Media releases, articles and related web links

Newspaper Articles

“Welcome your Eminence” - November 20, 2004 (Related to World of John Williams)

<http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2004/11/19/1100838213865.html?from=storylhs>

“Orchestra to showcase soundtrack genius” July 7, 2005 (Related to World of John Williams)

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/arts/orchestra-to-showcase-soundtrack-genius/2005/07/06/1120329500212.html>

Japanese article on Piano Stories III – April 23, 2006

http://news.jams.tv/jlog/social_view/id-9

Other known articles/news from anime and gaming websites

An article and interview after A Night in Fantasia 2005 -

<http://www.animefringe.com/magazine/2005/12/feature/10.php>

A Night in Fantasia 2006

<http://www.utsanime.org/>

Interview with Concertmaster Hiroaki Yura @ animenewsnetwork -

<http://www.animenewsnetwork.com/columns/SoundDecision.php?id=144>

A Night in Fantasia 2005

http://www.gamesindustry.biz/content_page.php?aid=12453

A Night in Fantasia 2004

<http://www.ausanime.com/news/item.php?t=3240>

<http://www.square-enix.co.jp/music/sem/page/uematsu/news/news015.html>

Piano Stories III

<http://palgn.com.au/article.php?id=4188>

<http://www.madman.com.au/actions/news.do?method=view&newsId=621>

A Night in Fantasia 2006 on event listing websites -

<http://www.mcity.com.au/melbourne/events/994/>

<http://www.mcity.com.au/melbourne/events/995/>

<http://www.liveguide.com.au>

<http://www.citysearch.com.au>

Eminence on Wikipedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eminence_Symphony_Orchestra