

## MEDIA RELEASE

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Professor Carolyn Stevens introduces  
**Japanese Rock**  
@ "Japan in Stereo"

The Japan Foundation, Sydney welcomes Professor Carolyn Stevens on Friday, February 22 to introduce **Japanese Rock** at the [Japan in Stereo](#) music listening series.

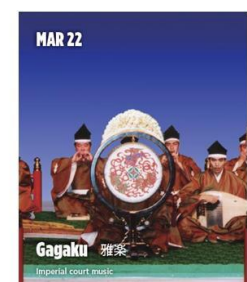
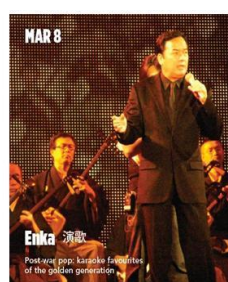
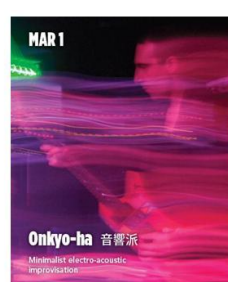
**Carolyn Stevens** spent several years in Japan in the 1990s, working as a consultant to an entertainment management agency and rubbing shoulders with some of the nation's **biggest names in rock music**.

In conversation with series presenter **Zacha Rosen**, Professor Stevens charts the path of her encounters with Japanese rock music, **sharing her knowledge, experience and music collection** to give a beginner's guide to the genre.

Says Carolyn Stevens, "Japan has a **thriving rock scene** which has evolved from emulating Western music to developing **a style all of its own**. What I'll do is show what makes the Japanese rock of today so **distinctively Japanese**."



*Japanese Popular Music: Culture, Authenticity and Power* by Carolyn Stevens (Routledge, 2008)  
[Cover (detail); designed by Toshihiko Takamizawa for ESP Guitars].



Coming up in **Japan in Stereo**:

- Feb 22**      **Japanese Rock:**                    [>>see YouTube playlist](#)  
**Western rhythm and Japanese sound**  
Prof. Carolyn Stevens, Monash University
- Mar 1**        **Onkyo-ha:**                                [>>see YouTube playlist](#)  
**Minimalist electro-acoustic improvisation**  
Oren Ambarchi, Musician
- Mar 8**        **Enka:**                                        [>>see YouTube playlist](#)  
**Postwar pop—Karaoke favourites of the golden generation**  
Dr. Shelley Brunt, Lecturer, RMIT University
- Mar 15**      **Koto:**                                        [>>see YouTube playlist](#)  
**Traditional Japanese harp**  
Satsuki Odamura, Musician (plus guests)
- Mar 22**      **Gagaku:**                                    [>>see YouTube playlist](#)  
**Imperial court music**  
Lewis Cornwell, Sydney Conservatorium of Music



**Dates:**                    Fridays, Feb 22 – Mar 22, 2013

**Time:**                    6.30pm (Doors open 6.00pm) – 8pm

**Venue:**                    **Japan Foundation Gallery**  
The Japan Foundation, Sydney  
L1 Chifley Plaza, 2 Chifley Square,  
Sydney

**Admission:**            Free. Bookings Essential.  
(Contact [reception@jpf.org.au](mailto:reception@jpf.org.au) / 02 8239 0055 or book online)

**Website:**                [www.jpf.org.au](http://www.jpf.org.au)

Audience members can also look forward to **free umeshu (Japanese sweet fruit liqueur)**, available to try at the venue courtesy of [Choya](#).



## ABOUT PROF. CAROLYN STEVENS:



[Carolyn Stevens](#) is Professor of Japanese Studies and Director of the Japanese Studies Centre at Monash University. She is the author of a number of books, including [Japanese Popular Music: Culture, Authenticity and Power](#) (Routledge 2008), and is also Editor in Chief for the academic journal, *Japanese Studies*.

## ABOUT JAPAN IN STEREO:

[Japan in Stereo](#) is a music listening series designed for people who are interested in knowing more about Japanese music but aren't quite sure where to start. Presented by Sydney arts writer and radio producer [Zacha Rosen](#), the series invites **five passionate music aficionados** to introduce their favourite genres of Japanese music through conversation, music, video and live performance. *Japan in Stereo* showcases a wide variety of music, from traditional genres such as **Imperial court music** and the music of the **koto (Japanese harp)**, to contemporary genres such as **minimalist improvisation**, Japanese **classic rock** and sentimental **post-war pop**.

## ABOUT THE JAPAN FOUNDATION:

The Japan Foundation aims to promote cultural and intellectual exchange between Japan and other nations through a diverse range of programs and events. The Japan Foundation, Sydney runs a gallery space, library and Japanese language courses for all levels catering from beginner to advanced. The Japan Foundation was established in 1972 with a global network of 23 offices in 21 countries. The Australian office was founded in 1977.

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For more information please see [www.jpf.org.au](http://www.jpf.org.au) or contact:

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