



## Mika Stoltzman, Marimba

Performs Four World Premieres by  
**Chick Corea, Clarice Assad, Gordon Stout, & Delvyn Case**

Plus Music from New AVIE Album *Palimpsest*  
by **J.S. Bach & John Zorn**

with Guest Artist **Richard Stoltzman, Clarinet**

Friday, May 31, 2019 at 7pm

First Church Boston | 66 Marlborough Street | Boston, MA

Tickets: \$20 at [bit.ly/MikaBoston](https://bit.ly/MikaBoston)

*Palimpsest* to be released June 7, 2019 on AVIE Records  
Downloads and review CDs available for press upon request.

Watch Mika Stoltzman perform Bach's Chaconne:

<https://youtu.be/QaFgKp7Qvzw>

Boston, MA – **Mika Stoltzman**, described by the *Los Angeles Times* as a “high-wire marimbist . . . an amazing, energetic performer ready for major exposure,” will perform on **Friday, May 31, 2019 at 7pm** at **First Church Boston** (66 Marlborough St.) in a concert marking the release of *Palimpsest*, her new album to be released on June 7 by AVIE Records. “Classical superstar” (*The New York Times*) clarinetist **Richard Stoltzman** is a guest artist for the concert and is also featured on the album.

The concert program includes four world premieres by **Chick Corea** (*Birthday Song for Mika*), **Clarice Assad** (*Kaleidoskope*), **Gordon Stout** (*The Beguine of Something Beautiful for Marimba and Clarinet*), and **Delvyn Case** (*Nocturne*), all composed for Mika, as well as two works by **John Zorn** (*Palimpsest* for clarinet and marimba and *The Nymphs* for solo marimba) that were also written for her. In addition, Mika will perform her own arrangement of **J.S. Bach**'s Chaconne from Partita in D minor BWV 1004, arranged for solo marimba.

*Birthday Song for Mika* is the second piece Chick Corea has written for Mika Stoltzman, the first being *Marika Groove* from 2012, recorded on Mika's album *If You Believe*. Mika, who met Chick Corea first as a fan seeking an autograph after a concert in 2000 and again after a concert in 2006 through mutual friend Eddie Gomez, describes his work for her as, “a real treasure in my marimba life,” and Chick as her “hero forever.” The new work is titled *Birthday Song* because its New York premiere will take place on Chick Corea's birthday, June 12, 2019 at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall.

*Palimpsest* by John Zorn is the title track for the new AVIE album and was written for Mika and Richard in 2018 for Richard's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. A palimpsest is a page of ancient manuscript of which sections have been partially erased and written over with new text. Richard says, “That's what you get here. Mika begins by playing quite tonal music, and then the clarinet jumps in with something abstract and arrhythmic, with crazy leaping intervals, almost as if Ornette Coleman had stepped into the room, and it keeps in conflict with the steady meter of the ‘old manuscript’ underneath Mika's part. It's really fun to play, and it has been a surprise hit with audiences.”

Bach's Chaconne is also featured on the new album. Of the piece, said to have been written after Bach learned that his wife Maria had died while he was away, Mika says, “In my opinion his sorrow is best expressed in the broad arpeggio passage in the latter part of the first section, and playing this always brings tears to my eyes. The last section is like a reminiscence – and unlike the gloomy beginning, I think it ends as a kind of vigorous hymn to life.”

*Palimpsest* also includes Bach's *Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue* in D Minor, BWV 903 arranged by Richard; Maurice Ravel's *Pavane pour une infante défunte* arranged by Mika; William Thomas McKinley's *Mostly Blues* Nos. 2, 8 & 12 written for the duo; and Astor Piazzolla's *Tango-Étude No. 5* and *Fuga y misterio*. Bandoneónist Héctor Del Curto and bassist Pedro Giraud are guest artists on *Palimpsest*, which was produced and engineered by Steven Epstein.

*Palimpsest* is the fruit of the Stoltzmanns' musical collaboration, as well as their relationship as husband and wife. The two met when Mika, a longtime admirer of Richard's musicianship, invited him to perform at a music festival in her hometown of Amakusa, Japan. Later, they recorded *Variations on Goldberg's Theme and Dreams* by Richard's son, and their musical rapport and friendship soon flourished into a romantic relationship. The couple married in 2012.

**Mika Stoltzman** has been described as a "Japanese Marimba Maestro," by *Time Out New York*. *All About Jazz* raves, "Mika Stoltzman is beyond category, to use Duke Ellington's signature compliment." Mika has toured to 19 countries and 65 cities around the world. She has performed nine times at Carnegie Hall (Zankel and Weill Hall), as well as at PASIC 2005 and 2007, the Blue Note in New York, the Tokyo and Cairo Jazz Festivals, and the Rockport Jazz Festival. She regularly performs around the world in a duo with her husband, clarinetist Richard Stoltzman, at major venues in New York, Boston, Austin, Buenos Aires, Mexico, Hong Kong, Japan, Germany and many more.

Mika has performed as soloist with the Kyushu Symphony Orchestra, Kumamoto Symphony Orchestra, Kansai Philharmonic Orchestra, Krakow Philharmonic, and Szombathely Symphony Orchestra. In 2013, she gave the world premiere of Chick Corea's Piano Concerto No. 1 on marimba with the Xalapa Symphony Orchestra in Mexico and performed the work again with Orchestra Machiavelli in Italy in 2018.

Mika released her first album *Mitsue* in 1998, followed by *Marimba Phase* in 2003. In 2010, she released a live DVD, *Marimba Madness*, on Big Round Records, and new CD, *Mikarimba*, on Video Art Music (Japan). In 2013, she released *If You Believe* with Steve Gadd on TeeGa Music (Japan). In 2017, Mika and Richard Stoltzman recorded a duo album titled *Duo Cantando* with producer Stephen Epstein, guest artist Chick Corea, and the Boston Modern Orchestra Project (BMOP), released on the DENON label (Nippon Columbia, Japan and Savoy record, US). In addition, Mika's arrangement and performance of *Tokyo/Vermont Counterpoint* appears on Steve Reich's album *Triple Quartet* (Nonesuch). She has also appeared on Richard Stoltzman's album *Goldberg Variations* (BMG Japan) and Jo Hisaishi's *Asian X.T.C.* (Universal Japan).

Mika Stoltzman is from Amakusa, a small island in the Kumamoto prefecture in southern Japan. Her grandparents played traditional Japanese instruments, while her aunt taught piano and her father was a Kendo master. She began studying piano at age three, and in junior high became fascinated by the drums. At eighteen, she found the marimba, a perfect combination of piano and percussion. She studied marimba at Toronto University with members of NEXUS, and later moved to New York in 2008. She now resides in Boston. [www.mikarimba-stoltzman.com](http://www.mikarimba-stoltzman.com)

**Richard Stoltzman's** virtuosity, musicianship and sheer personal magnetism have made him one of today's most sought-after concert artists. As soloist with more than a hundred orchestras, as a captivating recitalist and chamber music performer, as an innovative jazz artist, and as a prolific recording artist, two-time Grammy Award winner Stoltzman has defied categorization, dazzling critics and audiences alike throughout many musical genres.

As a ten-year participant in the Marlboro Music Festival, Stoltzman gained extensive chamber music experience and subsequently became a founding member of the noted ensemble TASHI, which made its debut in 1973. Since then, Stoltzman's unique style of playing the clarinet has earned him an international reputation, as he has opened up possibilities for the instrument that no one could have predicted. He gave the first clarinet recitals in the histories of both the Hollywood Bowl and Carnegie Hall, and in 1986 he became the first wind player to be awarded the Avery Fisher Prize. In 2006 he was awarded the prestigious Sanford Medal by the Yale School of Music; he is an elected fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His talents as a jazz performer as well as a classical artist have been heard far beyond his annual tours. He has performed or recorded with such jazz and pop greats as Gary Burton, the Canadian Brass, Chick Corea, Judy Collins, Steve Gadd, Eddie Gómez, Keith Jarrett, the King's Singers, George Shearing, Wayne Shorter, Mel Tormé, and Spyro Gyra founder Jeremy Wall.

His commitment to new music has resulted in the commissioning and premiere of numerous new works for the clarinet, among them Toru Takemitsu's *Fantasma/Cantos*, 1994 Grawemeyer Award winner for Music Composition *Landscapes with Blues* by Stephen Hartke, and a concerto by Einojuhani Rautavaara which premiered with conductor Leonard Slatkin and the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall.

Richard Stoltzman has a discography numbering over 60 releases on BMG/RCA, SONY Classical, MMC, BIS, Albany and other labels, including a Grammy-winning recording of Brahms Sonatas with Richard Goode. Among Stoltzman's most beloved releases are the album of American works *Amber Waves* and the Trios of Beethoven, Brahms and Mozart with Emanuel Ax and Yo-Yo Ma, which won Stoltzman his second Grammy Award. In 2017, Sony Classical released a 40-CD retrospective box set of Stoltzman's recordings. [www.richardstoltzman.com](http://www.richardstoltzman.com)

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