



Yoik and Kiyari Project 2018

Sunday 11 November 2018

Chino Cultural Complex

木遣

Yoik

伝統の聲が創る新しい諏訪の力

*Suwa's New Dynamism Created through Traditional Voices*

---

**Program and information of Kiyari in English**

---

## Yoik and Kiyari Project 2018



Program composed by Nobuhiko Morioka | Translated by Yo Watanabe

The description regarding Onbashira footages: composed by LCV | Translated by Miho Sato

© Yoik and Kiyari Project

# Prologue

---

**Crossing the ocean and continents, Yoik and Kiyari find each other for the first time to create the soulful harmony in Suwa.**

**With the hope for freedom and equality, our hearts unite to transcend all boundaries paving the way to the future.**

---

The song of the indigenous people of Sami in Norway, Yoik.

The song echoing through the sky praying for the mountain gods during Onbashira festival, Kiyari.

The language, custom, and history cultivated by the distinct landscape and local community.

They have the strength and beauty of the cultural identity carefully passed down from generation to generation.

On the other hand, the modern fast-paced lifestyle is discontinuing our past and future.

Are there some aspects of our identity that are connected to what our ancestors have passed down to us?

What gives us the voice to communicate with the world as exceptional yet equally valuable individuals?

This project hopes for Suwa, the land of forests and the lake, to become the place creating the future with infinite possibilities for the young generation by connecting with the country of equality, Norway.

Yoik and Kiyari Project 2018  
Producer : Nobuhiko Morioka

# Program

---

## 1. Introduction

## 2. Symposium

### **“The Story of Inheriting Vanishing Culture Told by Sami People”**

After a long history of discrimination and prohibition, Sami people have been working on regaining their culture and language. How did the young Sami people come to actively express their identity in today’s society? Is there a conflict? What should we do towards the future? Let us ask the Sami singers.

## 3. Concert

### **(1) Yoik**

The first traditional voice of Sami people to resonate through Suwa.

The Sami people from distant regions do not speak the same language.

The singers with different roots, one from Northern Sami and one from Ume Sami, unite here to sing Yoik as two Sami people. Let the song with a shadow of sorrow from the Scandinavia’s beautiful yet harsh nature echo through Suwa.

### **(2) Kiyari**

Onbashira festival is held only once in six years.

The movie introduces the festival’s entire rituals with the 18 Kiyari songs sung by the members of Chino-city Kiyari Preservation Society and carefully edited Onbashira footages.

### (3) Collaboration

Kiyari and Yoik. The first collaboration in the world to weave these two voices in a way that reminds us of a conversation. Three Kiyari verses have been kindly selected by the Kiyari singers. We will first hear Kiyari, and Yoik singers will respond through improvisation. One of the three Kiyari singers, the eldest member of Chino-city Kiyari Preservation Society, is 80 years old. Please listen carefully to the two traditional voices transcending nationality, ethnicity, language, and generation.

#### Three Collaboration Verses of Kiyari

- Bring our hearts in one      We pray for you
- The young and the old      We pray for you
- Now and forever              We pray for you

Song embodying unity, equality, and sustainability.

( Kiyari by Shinji Uehara, Fusakazu Miura, and Takehiko Ushiyama )

### 4. Finale

The first Kiyari to be sung in English in the world. Everyone in this hall—the audience, Kiyari and Yoik singers, sing the last part “Yoisa” together.

**“ May Peace Continue We Pray For You Yoisa, Yoisa, Yoisa “**

(Kiyari in English by Kazutoshi Ushiyama)

**“みなさまごぶじでおねがいだ よいさ よいさ よいさ “**

Minasama Gobuji de Onegaida Yoisa, Yoisa, Yoisa

---

# Kiyari

---

*Onbashira festival is held on once 6<sup>th</sup> year in the Suwa region, Nagano Prefecture, and it has a long history of over 1,200 years. During the festival, immense trees are cut down from the mountain to be dragged to the Suwa Taisha Shrine. Moving each log called Onbashira weighting about 10t requires thousands of Ujiko (local participants of the festival) to join forces with Kiyari uniting their spirits. Kiyari singing is uniquely carried high-pitched tunes echoing through the mountains and villages to express the gratitude to the mountain gods, pray for the Ujiko's safety, and call for the Ujiko's energy. Today, there is a growing concern for inheriting this Suwa region's important tradition since the average age of Kiyari singers continues to rise. We hope this Kiyari and Yoik's collaborative concert will be an opportunity to rediscover the irreplaceable beauty and power in Suwa's traditional voice.*

< Introducing the Kiyari Singers >

---

## Chino-city Kiyari Preservation Society

---

- *It was established by Chino's local Kiyari singers in 1986 to preserve and pass down Chino-city's Kiyari to the future generations. Through the monthly practices and companionship among the members, they have been cultivating the heartfelt harmony in their Kiyari. They actively perform at local events striving to revitalize Kiyari tradition.*
- *Performing Kiyari singers' award records at the Kamisha section of "The Best Kiyari Singers of Japan Competition."*  
*(Best Kiyari Award) Morio Kanbayashi and Kazuo Miyasaka*  
*(Excellent Kiyari Award) Fumiharu Miyasaka, Makihiko Kokai,*  
*and Naoko Uemura*

---

# Onbashira Festival

---

*Suwa Taisha Shrine is one of the oldest shrines in Japan. Onbashira festival is held at Suwa Taisha Shrine on the years of the Tiger and Monkey in the Chinese zodiac calendar. The festival begins with cutting down eight 200 years old trees which are roughly 1m in diameter, 17m in length, and 10t in weight from the mountain. Thousands of Ujiko drag these logs by hands and plant the logs upright in the four corners of Kamisha and Shimosha of Suwa Taisha Shrine. Onbashira festival is a religious ceremony with many highlights for the audiences. During “Yamadashi” in April, the visitors can cheer the courageous Ujiko riding on the massive logs sliding down the steep slope at “Kiotoshi,” and crossing the ice cold river at “Kawagoe.” During “Satobiki” in May, visitors can enjoy the parade with local people dressed in Edo period clothing. The next Onbashira festival will be held in 2022. We hope the people from all around the world would come to see this festival honoring the magnificent nature and history of Suwa.*



**Chino-city Kiyari Preservation Society**



**The scene of “Kiotoshi” in 2016**

(Photo by Nobuhiko Morioka)

< Introducing the Sami Singers >

---

# Yoik

---



**Mikkel Rasmus Logje**



**Katarina Barruk**

## Yoik and Kiyari Project 2018

---

Planning	Nobuhiko Morioka
Production	Yoik and Kiyari Project 2018
Producer	Nobuhiko Morioka / Toshiyuki Natori
Director	Haukur J. Gunnarsson
Stage Manager	Kenji Oshima
Supported by	Norwegian Embassy Tokyo Scandinavia-Japan Sasakawa Foundation Nagano Prefecture, Japan

Partner THE SAMI NATIONAL THEATRE BEAIVVÁŠ / ÅARJELHSAEMIEN TEATERE

Poster Designing	Fumiki Tomioka
Poster photo:	Aslak Mikal Mienna / Nobuhiko Morioka
Poster model	Ann Majbritt Eriksen / Chino-city Kiyari Preservation Society
Calligraphy	Futou Tomioka

Program composer	Nobuhiko Morioka
Translation of Program in English	Yo Watanabe

The description of Onbashira footage's composer	LCV
Translation of this description in English	Miho Sato (Children's House)

Organizer	Yoik and Kiyari Project 2018
Co-organizer	Chino Cultural Complex