

LITTLEBOX RECORDINGS PRESENTS

tone-cluster

An Experimental Music Project from Violinist Eric Gorfain
Featuring the Debut Album

KYO SHU



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — JUNE 9, 2020 — **tone-cluster**, the experimental music project of noted violinist/composer/arranger Eric Gorfain, founder of The Section Quartet, will release the album, **KYO SHU**, on July 17, 2020 via Littlebox Recordings. **KYO SHU** is a five-song musical reverie of Gorfain's years spent in Japan, first as a college student, then as a Tokyo studio musician, through improvised studio performances made with amplified acoustic violins, guitar pedals, piano and synthesizers. Gorfain performed, recorded and mixed the album himself.

“It began as purely musical exploration but transformed into soundtracking memories,” explains Gorfain. “Kyo Shu,” like so many words and concepts in Japanese, is a word of duality. It means “reminiscence”, but reminiscence with an undercurrent of “nostalgia.” The soundscapes have a mesmerizing energy, like that of a walk after midnight on the sand dunes of the Japan Sea coast (“*Mayonaka Sakkyū*”), or the wonderment of standing under a full moon in autumn (“*Mangetsū*”).

“*Yuki no Rotemburō*” conjures up soaking in the warm waters of an open-air *onsen*, chilled by snow falling on winter trees in the dark. On “*Saishū Densha*,” the plucking of the violin flickers like Tokyo’s neon lights, viewed from a train where you are its only passenger. “*Kon Ran*” has been set to a hypnotic video Gorfain filmed during a sleepless, jet-lagged cab ride. Watch the video [HERE](#).

“**KYO SHU** captures and conjures up everything that Japan *is*,” says anime director Steven Foster (*Ghost Stories*). “The music has the energy, the mystery, the fascination, even the ancestry of the country. And “*Kon Ran*” is literally terrifying—I mean that in a good way.”

As a visual companion to the music, Gorfain's analog photos, made during his time to Japan, are featured on www.tone-cluster.com and Instagram (@[tone.cluster](https://www.instagram.com/tone_cluster)). **KYO SHU's** album cover uses one of those photographs, with Japanese and English calligraphy by [Ryotaro Kato](https://www.instagram.com/ryotaro_kato), a friend and master ceramicist from the famous Koubei-gama ceramics family dynasty.

tone-cluster takes us worlds away from Gorfain's role as the founder of The Section Quartet, one of the busiest studio string ensembles for rock and pop artists (as well as film and TV scores)...and a favorite on the LA club scene for their string quartet interpretations of Radiohead's *OK Computer* and *The Bends*.

About Eric Gorfain

Eric began his classical violin training at the age of four, eventually finding his way into the rock world touring with Jimmy Page and Robert Plant, and working with artists like Nick Cave & the Bad Seeds, Queens of the Stone Age (*Villains*), Beyoncé (*Lemonade*), Fiona Apple, Kanye West (*Late Registration*, *Graduation*), and many others.

His recent credits include orchestrating for a 19-piece ensemble for Maria McKee's critically-acclaimed *La Vita Nuova* (her first studio album in 13 years); arranging, recording and mixing Sam Phillips' latest album, *World on Sticks*; and, with The Section Quartet, appearing on Weyes Blood's *Titanic Rising*, Jenny Lewis' *On The Line*, and with Nick Cave on "Cosmic Dancer" for the late producer Hal Willner's upcoming *AngelHeaded Hipster: The Songs of Marc Bolan & T. Rex*.

THE RELEASE DATE FOR **KYO SHU** IS **JULY 17, 2020** AND IS AVAILABLE FOR PREORDER NOW AT BANDCAMP.COM AND TONE-CLUSTER.COM.

To schedule an interview with Eric, contact tc@tone-cluster.com.

Track List:

1. Mangetsu (The Full Moon)
2. Mayonaka Sakkyu (Midnight Sand Dunes)
3. Kon Ran (Chaos)
4. Yuki no Rotemburo (Onsen in the Snow)
5. Saishu Densha (Last Train)

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