



KYOTOPHONIE 2026 Spring Borderless Music Festival

Lineup Announced

Msaki x Tubatsi, Dora Morelenbaum, and more...

[KYOTOPHONIE Borderless Music Festival 2026 Spring](#) brings together artists from across continents, reflecting the festival's spirit of musical exchange beyond borders. This edition features the acclaimed South African duo **Msaki x Tubatsi**, alongside Rio de Janeiro-based singer-songwriter **Dora Morelenbaum**.



Photo by Kgomotso Neto



Dora Morelenbaum

Each performance will take place at venues across Kyoto from **18 April to 17 May 2026**, coinciding with its sister event, KYOTOGRAPHIE International Photography Festival 2026.

Launched in 2023, KYOTOPHONIE invites a diverse range of artists from Japan and around the world to Kyoto for live performances each spring and autumn. The festival was founded by Lucille Reyboz and Yusuke Nakanishi, co-founders of KYOTOGRAPHIE International Photography Festival. Together, the two festivals transcend conventional boundaries of genre, venue, and format, creating a bridge between Kyoto and the wider world.

Inspired by KYOTOGRAPHIE's 2026 theme "**EDGE**", KYOTOPHONIE expands beyond the realm of photography into the worlds of sound and performance

【Spring Highlights】

MSAKI x TUBATSI

with Clément Petit (Cello), Frédéric Soulard (Keyboard)

The South African duo make their Japan debut



Photo by Kgomotso Neto
Msaki (Left), Tubatsi (Right)

Headlining the festival's opening weekend on **Sunday, 19 April** is the collaborative project by Msaki and Tubatsi Mpho Mloi, two leading figures of South Africa's contemporary folk and alternative scene. The performance will take place at the **Audio-visual Hall of Higashi Honganji** in Kyoto, and coincides with the **South Africa In Focus Symposium**.

In preparation for KYOTOGRAPHIE 2026, which places a special focus on South Africa, Reyboz and Nakanishi travelled to the country to meet artists and local communities where they discovered Msaki. Inspired by her artistic vision and role within South Africa's music community, they invited her to perform at the festival.

Blending African folk with elements of jazz and soul, Msaki and Tubatsi create a delicate yet powerful musical language shaped by the harmony of their voices. During the performance, they will present songs from their album *Synthetic Hearts*, released by the French label **NØ FØRMAT!**. Recorded with cellist **Clément Petit**, the work will be brought to life on stage with Petit joining on cello and **Frédéric Soulard** on keyboard. This one-night-only performance brings contemporary South African music to the striking modern space hidden beneath the historic temple in Kyoto.

[Related Event]

South Africa In Focus Symposium

Date: Sunday 19 April 2026

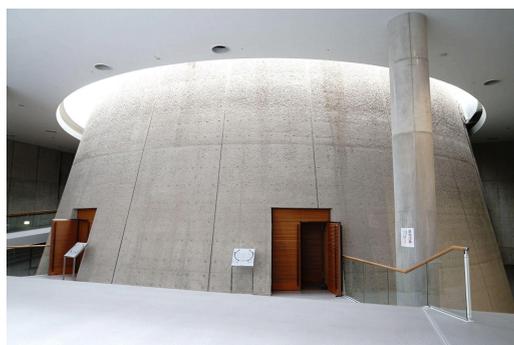
Venue: Higashi Honganji Audio-visual Hall (New Reception Hall)

Time: 13:00 Doors Open | 13:30 Start | 15:30 End

Fee: Free, [online registration required](#)

Speakers: Siyabulela Mandela, Lebohang Kganye,
Pieter Hugo, Sean O'Toole, Msaki

Moderator: Jillian Wolf



Venue: Higashi Honganji Audiovisual Hall (New Reception Hall)

DORA MORELENBAUM

With Guilherme Lirio (guitar)

Carrying on the traditions of Brazilian music, the singer-songwriter makes her first Japan tour



Dora Morelenbaum

Closing the festival on **Saturday, 16 May**, Brazilian singer-songwriter **Dora Morelenbaum**—one of the leading voices of Brazil’s new generation of music— will perform at the **Rōfū-tei Reception Hall in Shōsei-en Garden in Kyoto**. Overlooking the historic Japanese garden, Morelenbaum and guitarist Guilherme Lirio will join for an intimate performance where the fresh sensibility of contemporary Brazilian music meets Kyoto’s spring landscape.

KYOTOPHONIE has previously introduced legendary figures of Brazilian music such as Gilberto Gil and Chico César to Kyoto audiences. This time, the focus turns to a new generation musician who is gaining increasing international attention.

Born into a musical family, Morelenbaum is the daughter of renowned cellist Jaques Morelenbaum and jazz singer Paula Morelenbaum, both longtime collaborators of Ryuichi Sakamoto. A member of the Grammy Award-winning band **Bala Desjo**, her music draws on bossa nova and MPB while moving fluidly between classical, jazz, and contemporary post-Tropicália Brazilian sounds.

For this performance, she will be joined by guitarist and producer Guilherme Lirio, also from Rio de Janeiro. Lirio has collaborated on numerous projects with artists such as Ana Frango Elétrico and Nicolas Gernaldi.

With her intimate voice and refined arrangements, this special performance promises a memorable close to the festival.



Shōsei-en Rōfū-tei
Reception Hall
© Yoshikazu Inoue
KYOTOPHONIE 2023

KYOTOGRAPHIE / KYOTOPHONIE / KG+ KICK-OFF PARTY

Msaki, DANNY JIN, aiconga, NiSSiE, and more...



Photo by Kohei Take

The **KYOTOGRAPHIE / KYOTOPHONIE / KG+ Kick-off Party** will take place on **Saturday, 18 April** at Club Metro, Japan's oldest existing nightclub. This event celebrates the opening of the three festivals: KYOTOGRAPHIE International Photography Festival, KYOTOPHONIE Borderless Music Festival, and KG+ Satellite Photography Event, which run simultaneously from 18 April to 17 May, 2026.

The night will feature a solo performance by South African singer-songwriter **Msaki**, alongside the debut **CLUB METRO** appearance by rapper **DANNY JIN**, whose music addresses themes about Palestine, anti-war, and anti-discrimination. Local DJs will also play a vast array of music, including **aiconga** who blends sounds of cumbia, the Latin genre originating in Colombia. Bringing together diverse musical backgrounds, the night promises a vibrant opening to the festival season.



Msaki



DANNY JIN



aiconga

CLÉMENT PETIT & YASUTAKA OKADA LIVE

French and Japanese stringed musicians meet in experimental setting



Clément Petit



Yasutaka Okada

French cellist **Clément Petit** and Japanese multi-instrumentalist Yasutaka Okada will perform on **Sunday, 26 April** at **UrBANGUILD**. Both artists centre their practice on stringed instruments while embracing improvisation and experimentation as key elements of their work. Opening the evening, Okada presents his exploratory approach to sound, followed by Petit, whose distinctive cello playing moves fluidly between tradition and improvisation. The night offers an exploration of how two musicians from different backgrounds approach sound, space, and the expressive possibilities of their instruments.

FRÉDÉRIC SOULARD LISTENING SESSION

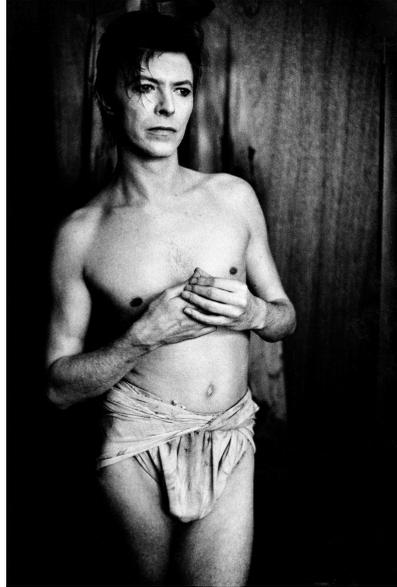


Frédéric Soulard New Album "Get High"

French keyboardist, musician, and producer **Frédéric Soulard** will host a record listening session centered on his new compositions on **Saturday, 25 April** at **Cinematik Saloon**. With his debut solo album *Get High*, Soulard reveals a more intimate side of his musical palette: a dreamlike, introspective journey inspired by the high mountains. Moving between ambient music and contemplative jazz, the album's ten tracks evoke an ecstatic and luminous ascent. Presented in the intimate setting of Cinematik Saloon, the listening session offers a rare opportunity to experience the music collective from multiple perspectives.

【Music Related KYOTOGRAPHIE Program】

Exhibition by Anton Corbijn to be presented at
KYOTOGRAPHIE International Photography Festival 2026



David Bowie, Chicago, 1980 © Anton Corbijn

As part of the main program of **KYOTOGRAPHIE International Photography Festival 2026**, an exhibition by Dutch photographer **Anton Corbijn**—renowned for his iconic portraits of famous musicians—will be shown.

Anton Corbijn is best known for immortalising some of the world's greatest artists: Depeche Mode, U2, The Rolling Stones, Gerhard Richter and Ai Weiwei, to name a few. Shot in his distinct style - black-and-white with a slow shutter speed - Corbijn's portraits are visceral, embodying the subtle movements and gestures of his famous subjects. "I feel the imperfection is much closer to how life is than perfection," the artist said, in an interview with TIME magazine in 2015.

In 2025 the master photographer celebrated two anniversaries: his 70th birthday, and 50 years as an artist. This selective retrospective will bring together a range of both iconic and lesser-known images, tracing half a century of his striking portraiture practice.

Title: "Presence"

ANTON CORBIJN

Supported by agnès b.

With subsidy of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Venue: SHIMADAI GALLERY KYOTO

Open: 10:00–18:00, Open Everyday

※Last admission is **30 minutes before closing**

Admission Fee:

Adults: ¥1,500

Students: ¥800 (*Student ID required*)

More details on Passport Tickets and Single-venue Tickets: <https://www.kyotographie.jp/tickets/>

Exhibition information: <https://www.kyotographie.jp/programs/2026/anton-corbijn/>

【Festival Outline】

Title: KYOTOPHONIE Borderless Music Festival 2026 Spring

Dates: Saturday, 18 April - Sunday, 17 May, 2026

Venue: Various locations across Kyoto City including Higashi Honganji Audio-Visual Hall, CLUB METRO, Shōsei-en Rōfū-tei Reception Hall

Organiser: KYOTOPHONIE Borderless Music Festival

KYOTOPHONIE 2026 Spring Sponsors & Partners

*as of March 16, 2026 more to be confirmed

Main Sponsors

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KYOTO

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Instituto Guimarães Rosa (IGR)

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CLUB METRO
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Hotel Partners

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NOHGA Hotel Kiyomizu Kyoto
The Thousand Kyoto
ROKU KYOTO, LXR Hotels & Resorts

In Collaboration with

KYOTOGRAPHIE International Photography Festival

【Performance Information】

Event Title	KYOTOGRAPHIE / KYOTOPHONIE / KG + Kick-Off Party MSAKI, DANNY JIN, AICONGA, NiSSiE + Special Surprise Guest
Date	Saturday, 18 April, 2026
Time	21:00 - LATE
Venue	CLUB METRO 〒606-8396 Kyoto, Sakyo Ward, Shimotsutsumicho, 82 BF Ebisu Building MAP
Tickets / Lineup	Ticket details will be announced at a later date.

Event Title	Msaki x Tubatsi Concert
Performers	Msaki x Tubatsi (Vocals), Clément Petit (Cello), Frédéric Soulard (Keyboard)
Date	Sunday, 19 April, 2026
Time	16:00 Doors Open 16:30 Performance Starts
Venue	Higashi Honganji Audio-visual Hall (New Reception Hall) 〒600-8505 Tokiwa-cho, Karasuma-dori, Gojo-agaru, Shimogyo-ku, Kyoto MAP
Tickets	¥5,000 GENERAL ¥2,500 STUDENT Tickets on sale now: Link to purchase
YouTube	https://youtu.be/DGIAYuzGQ5o

Event Title	Frédéric Soulard Listening Session
Date	Saturday, 25 April, 2026
Time	21:00 Start
Venue	Cinematik Saloon 〒602-0841 Kyoto, Kamigyo Ward, Kajicho, 447-14, Printemp Building B1F MAP
Admission	*No reservations required, first-come, first-served admission *Drinks must be ordered separately *Minors not permitted

Event Title	Clément Petit & Yasutaka Okada Live
Performers	Clément Petit, Yasutaka Okada
Date	Sunday, 26 April, 2026
Time	16:30 Doors Open 17:00 Performance Starts

Venue	UrBANGUILD 〒604-8017 Kyoto, Nakagyo Ward, Zaimokucho, 180 3F MAP
Ticket Prices (Adv/tax in)	¥3,000 ADV. +1 Drink ¥3,500 DOOR +1 Drink Link to purchase *Children under pre-school age are not allowed to enter *Tickets required for elementary school students and above *Tickets cannot be cancelled, changed or refunded after purchase.

Event Title	Dora Morelenbaum Live
Performers	Dora Morelenbaum (Vocals, guitar), Guilherme Lirio (Guitar)
Date	Saturday, 16 May, 2026
Time	13:00 Doors Open 13:30 Performance Starts
Venue	Shōsei-en Rōfū-tei Reception Hall 〒600-8505 Karasuma Shichi-jō, Shimogyō-ku, Kyoto, Kyoto MAP
Ticket Prices (Adv/tax in)	¥5,700 ADV. ¥6,200 DOOR ¥3,200 STUDENT ADV. ¥3,700 STUDENT DOOR * Ticket price includes a ¥700 garden maintenance donation. Link to purchase *Children under pre-school age are not allowed to enter *Tickets required for elementary school students and above *Tickets cannot be cancelled, changed or refunded after purchase.

[Artist Information]

<p>Msaki</p> 	<p>Asanda Lusaseni, known professionally as Msaki, is a South African composer, singer, and songwriter. Although she is known as a musician, Msaki trained in fine art, graphic design, film photography and curation at Rhodes University, Leeds University, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and East London Technikon. She is a South African Music Award (SAMA) winning musician, who contributed to Black Coffee's Grammy Award winning album as writer, composer and artist.</p> <p>Her practice now entails intentionally synthesising her musical and visual expression through work that merges installation and performance. This expression is seen through the launch of her album: Of Love in Protest, at Nirox Sculpture Park 2022, Johannesburg, and presentation of Ndiyozilanda at the National Arts Festival 2023. She is the 2022 Standard Bank Young Artist of the Year for Music and a part of this year's South African Pavilion at the Venice Biennale.</p>
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	<p>Instagram Spotify</p>
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<p>Tubatsi (Tubatsi Mpho Moloi)</p> 	<p>Tubatsi Mpho Moloi is a South African singer-songwriter blending blues, jazz, rock, and African folk. Influenced by artists such as Guy Buttery, Philip Tabane, Bob Dylan, and Zim Nqawane, he creates an exploratory fusion folk sound.</p> <p>Raised in Soweto, he began performing early and later appeared in the musical Umoja. He is now the lead vocalist of the experimental band Urban Village, contributing flute, guitar, and mbira.</p> <p>Tubatsi has shared the stage with Albert Frost, Ladysmith Black Mambazo, Femi Koya, and Madala Kunene. A resident artist at the Nirox Foundation, he has performed widely and featured at festivals including Afropunk and the National Arts Festival.</p> <p>Website Instagram Spotify</p>
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<p>Clément Petit</p> 	<p>Clément Petit is an adventurous cellist driven by a constant search for new sounds and artistic encounters. Passionate about collaboration, he pushes the boundaries of his instrument by developing extended techniques and embracing diverse musical languages.</p> <p>Raised in a multicultural Parisian banlieue, he was immersed in Afro-American, Caribbean and electronic music before moving into contemporary and improvised practices. These influences shape his distinctive voice — one that dissolves genre boundaries and allows sounds to interact freely.</p> <p>As a cellist, composer and producer, Petit brings this expansive vision to all his projects, collaborating with artists such as Oumou Sangaré, Salif Keita, Angélique Kidjo, Aloe Blacc, Ben l'Oncle Soul, Blick Bassy, Msaki, Yael Naim, Piers Faccini, Mélissa Laveaux, Alani, Naïssam Jalal, Blundetto, Lo'Jo, Leïla Martial and Fidel Fourneyron.</p> <p>Instagram</p>
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<p>Flédéric Soulard</p> 	<p>Driven by a deep curiosity and a love of collaboration, Frédéric Soulard has been exploring musical worlds for over twenty years as a musician and producer. His passion for travel and encounters has taken him from recording albums in Thailand (with his band Limousine), to South Africa (with Urban Village and Msaki x Tubatsi), to creating a tribute project to Ryuichi Sakamoto (Asynchrone) and to producing records ranging from the stripped-down folk of Piers Faccini to the explosive free jazz of Thomas de Pourquery, via the haunted synth-pop of Jeanne Added and the off-kilter electro-rock of Poni Hoax.</p> <p>Instagram Spotify</p>
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<p>Yasutaka Okada</p> 	<p>Born in Kyoto in 1985. He performs all the sounds in his own works himself, using contrabass, daxophone, synthesizer, guitar, piano, field recordings, and more. He releases the energy of the universe, the afterlife, synchronisation with ethnic consciousness, and relationships with the natural world into the world as vibrations of sound. His expressions, which feel like watching a single film, invite listeners into a deeper realm—especially when one closes their eyes and blocks out one of the senses.</p> <p>As a member of the piano trio kott, he performed at the Fuji Rock Festival '23.</p> <p>He also released the “photobook + sound” work inside through Penguinmarket Records. This year, as part of KYOTOGRAPHIE KG+, he will exhibit the work Road (路) at FOR/M, a hub in the Kitaoji area.</p> <p>Instagram Spotify</p>
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<p>Dora Morelenbaum</p> 	<p>Latin Grammy Award Winner (as member of Bala Desejo, “SIM SIM SIM”, 2022)</p> <p>Dora Morelenbaum is one of Rio’s most captivating singer-songwriters. As a member of the Latin Grammy-winning supergroup Bala Desejo, she has charmed audiences worldwide, bringing energy and joy to both dance floors and concert halls. Her solo work showcases her honeyed vocals and sophisticated compositions, earning comparisons to legendary MPB artists like Joyce Moreno.</p> <p>In 2024, Dora released her debut solo album, “Pique,” which blends MPB, jazz, funk, soul, and disco. The album highlights her dynamic presence as a bandleader, curious composer, and expressive performer. Each track demonstrates her musical dexterity, combining playful production, intricate arrangements, and engaging performances from a talented ensemble that includes family members and Bala Desejo collaborators.</p> <p>Instagram Spotify</p>
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【About KYOTOPHONIE】



KYOTOPHONIE Borderless Music Festival, a biannual music event held in Kyoto, was established in 2023 by Lucille Reyboz and Yusuke Nakanishi (co-founders of KYOTOGRAPHIE International Photography Festival). Since its launch in 2023, KYOTOPHONIE events have reached approximately 37,000 people.

KYOTOPHONIE encourages creative experimentation that transcends traditional genres, venues, and formats. Each year KYOTOPHONIE introduces a diverse lineup of artists ranging from underground musicians to globally renowned performers, to audiences in Kyoto's most iconic venues.

During Spring, the festival is held alongside its sister event, the KYOTOGRAPHIE International Photography Festival. The KYOTOPHONIE program takes inspiration from its sister event's annual theme, expanding the limits of photography into the sound and performance sphere. In the Autumn, KYOTOPHONIE is a standalone event that delivers unprecedented musical experiences that evoke the feeling of traveling the world through sound.

Past editions

2023 Spring

Club METRO / Komyo-in Zen Temple / HOSOO Hall / The Kongo Noh Theatre / ROHM Theatre Kyoto South Hall / Kyoto Concert Hall Ensemble Hall Murata (Small Hall) / Shosei-in / Hachiku-an Former Kawasaki Residence
LUCAS SANTTANA / Fuyuki Yamakawa / Salif Keita / EUTRO / SHOW-GO / Trio SR9 / Sandra Nkaké / LA CHICA / Koki Nakano / Koki Nakano / Minoshiro Yoshida / Ballaké Sissoko & Vincent Segal / Piers Faccini / otomo yoshihide / Keigo Oyamada / TOMOYUKI TANAKA (FPM) / Peter Barakan / Kobeta Piano / DJ ○ maru / Shinpei Noda / INNA DE YARD « The Soul of Jamaica » with HORACE ANDY, CEDRIC MYTON from The Congos and WINSTON McAnuff, backed up by Home Grown / Kakushin Nishihara /

2023 Autumn

Amanohashidate Forest & Seaside

SHISHIDO KAVKA / Daichi Ito / Daisuke Iwahara / Yoichi Okabe / Show / Akira Yamada / Yasuhiro Yoshigaki / Chico César / Tamaki ROY / U-zhaan / Chinza DOPENESS / baobab / Naoya Wada / Tsuyoshi Maeda / Julia Shortreed / LUCA / HIRAKU YAMAMOTO / AKITO SENGOKU / ICHIKO AOBA / Eiko Ishibashi / Jim O'Rourke / Tatsuhisa Yamamoto / Kei Matsumaru / Sudoh Toshiaki / ermhoi / Daisuke Fujiwara / Luedji Luna / EKI SHOLA / Kakushin Nishihara / Circo de Sastre

2024 Spring

Hachiku-an Former Kawasaki Residence / Higashi Honganji Temple Audio-visual Hall / Club METRO

Guy Bertrand & Los Graciosos / Xenia França / Davi Kopenawa / Eamonn Doyle / Niall Sweeney / David Donohoe / Kevin Barry / OBRIGARRD / Black Boboi / YAMA / BING (Hitozoku Record) / Max Pela (afrobeta Bodega / BABALU) / YUKARI BB (Jazzy Sport Kyoto / Sounds Familiar / KJCC) / kott / CROSSBRED / Wataru (W) / Aiconga / YOTTU

2024 Autumn

ROHM Theatre Kyoto Main Hall Gilberto Gil and family band, Aquele Abraço Japan Tour 2024

2025 Spring

Club METRO / ROHM Theatre Kyoto South Hall / Hulic Hall Kyoto

Soundwalk Collective & Patti Smith / Filipe Catto / KOM_I / Nanao Kobayashi (FATHER) / KUNIKO