

I'm Glad There Is You – A Tribute to Oscar Peterson



A concert presented by Minato City and the Embassy of Canada in Japan
Tuesday, November 4, 2025 – 6:30 PM | Oscar Peterson Theatre, Embassy of Canada, Tokyo

This special evening celebrated the centennial of Oscar Peterson (1925–2007) — one of the world's greatest jazz pianists and composers, born in Montréal, Canada. Co-presented by the Embassy of Canada and Minato City, the concert honoured Peterson's profound musical legacy and his long-standing connection with Japan, where he performed extensively and received the Praemium Imperiale in 1999.

In this 60-minute program, Canadian vocalist Geneviève “Gigi” Marentette and Japanese pianist Saki Ozawa explored a rarely heard side of Peterson — not only the pianist and composer, but also the singer and lyricist.

The repertoire included selections from his 1961 album *Romance: The Vocal Stylings of Oscar Peterson*, the 1957 release *Soft Sands*, and his heartfelt tribute album *With Respect to Nat* (1965). The performance also featured two rarely heard original works — *Why Think About Tomorrow* and *I'd Never Dreamed I'd Be Without You*.

Pianist Saki Ozawa offered two solo tributes to Peterson, performing *Wheatland* from *Canadiana Suite* and *When Summer Comes* from *Trail of Dreams*.

Special guest vocalist Toku was featured on *I've Never Left Your Arms* and *Hymn to Freedom*, performing the Japanese lyrics.

The main program concluded with *Hymn to Freedom*, a timeless anthem for equality and hope, and the evening closed with an encore performance of *One for My Baby (and One More for the Road)*.

Through stories, songs, and dialogue, the evening illuminated Peterson's artistry as a humanist and innovator — a man whose voice and vision transcended borders.

About the Artists

Geneviève “Gigi” Marentette is a Canadian jazz vocalist known for her expressive voice, fearless improvisation, and emotional depth. Performing professionally since childhood, she studied jazz at the Walkerville Centre for the Creative Arts and Humber College in Toronto. Her music seamlessly blends jazz with soul, as well as global and electronic influences, reflecting her international career that has taken her across Asia, Europe, and North America. She is a co-founder of Toronto's Kensington Market Jazz Festival and is known for nurturing the music community. Gigi is celebrated for her magnetic stage presence and her ability to transform every song into a story uniquely her own.

Born in Hachioji, Tokyo, **Saki Ozawa** began classical piano at age three and discovered jazz at fifteen after hearing Gene Harris's *Tribute to Count Basie*. A graduate of the Senzoku Gakuen College of Music, she performs regularly at **Blue Note Place** and **Cotton Club Tokyo**. She has appeared at major festivals, including **Jazz à Juan** in France. Her second album, *Art in the Moment* (2025), was released to critical acclaim, confirming her as one of Japan's most promising new voices in jazz.

Oscar Peterson Tribute — Program Set List

1. *I'm Glad There Is You (In This World of Ordinary People)* — Jimmy Dorsey & Paul Madeira (Paul Mertz)

Album: Romance – The Vocal Styling of Oscar Peterson (1952)

2. *It's Only a Paper Moon* — Harold Arlen (music), Yip Harburg & Billy Rose (lyrics)

Album: With Respect to Nat (1965)

3. *Until the Real Thing Comes Along (It Will Have to Do)* — Alberta Nichols, Mann Holiner, Saul Chaplin, Sammy Cahn, L.E. Freeman

Released as a single in 1952; included in The Vocal Styling of Oscar Peterson (2022 compilation)

4. *I Hear Music* — Burton Lane (music), Frank Loesser (lyrics)

Album: Romance (1952)

****5. *These Foolish Things* — Eric Maschwitz (lyrics, as Holt Marvell), Jack Strachey (music), Harry Link (co-lyricist)**

Album: Romance (1952)

6. *I Can't Give You Anything but Love* — Jimmy McHugh (music), Dorothy Fields (lyrics)

Album: Romance (1952)

7. *I've Never Left Your Arms* — Lew Spence (music), Alan & Marilyn Bergman (lyrics)

Album: Soft Sands (1957)

8. *Wheatland* — Oscar Peterson

Album: Canadiana Suite (1964)

9. *When Summer Comes* — Oscar Peterson

Album: Trail of Dreams: A Canadian Suite (2000)

10. *Why Think About Tomorrow* — Oscar Peterson (music & lyrics)

Album: Side by Side (1994) — duet with Itzhak Perlman

11. *When Did I Fall in Love* — Jerry Bock (music), Sheldon Harnick (lyrics)

Album: Fiorello! (1960)

12. *I Never Dreamed I'd Be Without You* — Oscar Peterson (music), Harriette Hamilton (lyrics)

Unreleased Oscar Peterson composition with posthumous lyrics by Harriette Hamilton

13. *Hymn to Freedom* — Oscar Peterson (music), Harriette Hamilton (lyrics, 1963)

Album: Night Train (1963)

14. *One for My Baby (and One More for the Road)* — Harold Arlen (music), Johnny Mercer (lyrics)

Album: Romance – The Vocal Styling of Oscar Peterson (1952)