

TODAY'S DEAL



The Deal Scene
Grill Cover - Pick Your Favorite Team \$75.99
Value For \$37.99



HOT TOPICS • [Stungun assault](#) • [Husker linebackers](#) • [Oozing oil](#) • [Decapitation plea](#) • [Rape in taxi](#) • [20 pizza places](#) • [Missing UNL student](#) • [Pics: Artistic lights](#)

Home / News - Lincoln Journal Star Online / Lincoln News

[f Recommend](#) 84 | [t Tweet](#) 3 | [g+1](#) 0 | [Share](#) | [Print](#) | [Email](#) | [Star](#)



ALLISON HESS / LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR

Emma Nelson (left) and Justin Lepard play the violin and cello while Masayoshi Ishikawa conducts during a "Suite for the Forgotten" jazz suite rehearsal on Saturday at the Westbrook Music Building.

[Buy Now](#)



Teen has a close call with a shark

- Pilot suffers only minor injuries when plane crashes
- Man killed in La Vista crash
- Steven M. Sipple: Van Horn stays patient while chasing ultimate prize
- New Fun Valley arcade open at Sun Valley Lanes
- Benefit to help family of slain Omaha police officer
- Chase reaches speeds of 90 mph; driver in custody

April 06, 2015 12:05 am • By CHRIS DUNKER | LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR

0

Some five centuries ago, a Japanese poet asked his lover if feelings or events ever really took hold in the mind.

"If you say you remember, that means you have forgotten," the poet wrote.

Time moves forward, people and circumstances change, the world moves on and things are forgotten.

There is no forgetting for Masayoshi Ishikawa.

Four years ago, a massive earthquake and deadly tsunami killed tens of thousands of his countrymen in the Fukushima Prefecture of Japan. The initial environmental

Cindy Lange-Kubick: From the bomb to Fukushima, in translation



The story is on the second page of the book. [Read more](#)

disaster triggered a manmade disaster when the power was CUT to the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, leading to a meltdown and explosion.

A plume of radioactive elements spread across the Fukushima Prefecture and beyond — trace elements of cesium-137 isotope have been detected around the globe — and more than 300,000 people were forced to flee their homes.

Ishikawa, a native of the Fukushima Prefecture finishing his doctoral degree in jazz studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, was attending the University of South Florida in March 2011 when the disaster struck.

“My former teacher texted me to ask about my family,” he said. “I opened up the computer and saw the picture but I did not understand, so I tried calling my parents and the phone line was broken for 12 hours.”

At their home in Aizuwakamatsu City, about 60 miles from the coastline, Ishikawa’s family was safe, though the historical city and its reconstructed Japanese castle shook through a magnitude 6.0 earthquake.

There was no evacuation order issued for the citizens of Aizuwakamatsu, which lies beyond the “difficult to return zone” set up by the Japanese government in the 12 miles around the nuclear plant. Ishikawa said the government told the city it had been protected from the radiation by the mountain range separating it from the Fukushima plant on the coast.

Ishikawa — and many others — have a hard time believing it, though. What little information is available paints a grim picture: Tens of thousands died in the earthquake and tsunami, but hundreds of thousands continue to live in areas contaminated by cesium-137 radiation. The isotope’s 30-year half-life, or rate of decay, means Ishikawa’s family and friends will continue to live under the danger of various cancers, particularly thyroid cancer.

The Japanese government has been quick to deny any dangers, and it silences those who speak up.

“I feel sorry for the people who died and have family and friends who died,” he said. “But at the same time, I’m so sorry for the people who are continuing to live there. They do not know how dangerous it is.”

Processing the frustration, anguish and helplessness in watching a nuclear disaster occur in his home on the other side the planet is not easy for Ishikawa. Living in the U.S. since 2003, where he has attended universities in Florida, Washington and now Nebraska, he feels removed.

Watching as the world moves on to other pressing matters — unrest in the Middle East, political fighting in Washington — leaves him feeling that the Japanese living in Fukushima Prefecture have been forgotten.

As a musician, however, Ishikawa has found a way to express his feelings through jazz.

For his doctoral project, he composed “Suite for the Forgotten,” a jazz orchestral composition in three movements, which will premiere Tuesday evening at a recital in room 119 of the Westbrook Recital Hall on UNL’s campus.

The performance begins at 8:45 p.m. It is open to the public.

“I wanted write something personal, and for me, music is able to break down barriers and provide an outlet,” Ishikawa said. “Sometimes it is hard for me to express my thoughts and feelings to an audience, but through jazz, I have a way I can say it.”

Ishikawa is a longtime student of music and a growing jazz pianist. Growing up in Japan, he said, he fell in love with American pop music like Stevie Wonder. Tracing the roots of music, he found Ray Charles and other black jazz musicians from the 1960s and 70s.

It took time to develop his piano playing ability, however. Ishikawa said he had a toy piano with 40 keys as a child and only learned the full piano when he studied the instrument at Washington State University.

His “Suite for the Forgotten” features a jazz piano solo in the middle, a movement Ishikawa titled “Wasururuka” after the 500-year old Japanese poem that literally translates “have you forgotten?”

While “Wasururuka” is a playful interchange between two lovers, Ishikawa said, it relates to the situation in Fukushima today.

“So you say you remember this — that means you have been forgetting,” he said. “If we remember something, up until that point we have forgotten it. If you don’t need to remember, you have not forgotten.”

The other movements of the composition, which is about 40 minutes in length, are titled “Grief and Anger” and “Song for the Children.”

Ishikawa said he drew inspiration from an American documentary filmmaker living and working in Japan, Ian Thomas Ash, who started documenting the nuclear disaster three days after the power

Perspective, distance help Lincolniters fight fear in Japan



Lincoln
Northeast grad
Michael
Hennings and
Katelyn Castro,

another Nebraskan who lives in Japan, have been coping with the aftermath of the c... [Read more](#)

Wesleyan prof: Japan disaster mirrors past disasters



A Nebraska
Wesleyan
University
professor who

has studied the effects of catastrophes in Japan says the recent earthquake and tsunami continue ... [Read more](#)

This Week's Circulars

SPORTS AUTHORITY
ALL THINGS SPORTING GOOD!
DEALS OF THE WEEK
TRIPLE THE WEEKLY DEALS!
50% OFF
CELEBRATE FAT IS
HOVER FOR CIRCULAR

BIG LOTS!
\$249
HOVER FOR CIRCULAR

FAMILY DOLLAR
Your neighborhood home for EVERY DAY!
WEEK OF WISE SALES
SALE \$5 FOR \$10
HOVER FOR CIRCULAR

JCPenney
8:30
HOVER FOR CIRCULAR

GET WEEKLY ADS VIA E-MAIL

Sign up!



Trending

Facebook

- 1 Football: Beatrice standout blown away by early Husker offer
- 2 Husker LB target decommits from Miami
- 3 Linebacker depth biggest worry after departures
- 4 Steven M. Sipple: Riley's tall task with Tommy. Find right rhythm and fit
- 5 5-year-old found alone in pool; father arrested



Did you wake up with a leaky roof, wind damage, or storm damage?

Lockouts
and
Roadside Service

Looking for a professional Locksmith in Lincoln, Nebraska? Lockouts and Roadside Service can handle all of your residential and commercial needs. Please call us at 402-440-7374 or visit us at <http://www.lockoutsandroadside.com>



Custom T-shirts for your School and Events



Concrete done right! Call your local professionals at M&D Concrete for a free estimate! 402-540-5754

Not getting enough sleep can really take a toll on your skin.

plant explosion.

Ash traveled to Fukushima Prefecture 10 days after the disaster, and in another month was inside the exclusion zone surrounding the reactor, filming survivors who were deciding whether to stay or flee.

The result was his first film on the subject "In the Grey Zone," which follows the children of regional city who return to school inside the radiation zone.

His second film, "A2-B-C," focuses on the children living in Fukushima, who were not evacuated. Eighteen months after the meltdown, doctors began finding thyroid cysts and nodules.

"My films are usually about children," Ash said in a telephone interview from Japan, "so my eye was drawn to what was happening to the children living near the nuclear power plant."

Ash's documentary caught the attention of Japanese authorities. In late March, under pressure from the government, Ash's distributor cancelled the contract in a move Ash called "self-censorship" ahead of government-forced censorship.

"The governments tend to make money off nuclear power," he said. "If the entire country turns against nuclear power, that's a revenue source. If they evacuate all the people who are in danger, what happens to the tax base of that area?"

Evacuating an entire prefecture in Japan would be like evacuating an entire state in the U.S., Ash added. He said the Japanese government is acting in a way that any government would.

And while his ability to screen his documentaries in Japan is in jeopardy, Ash will travel to UNL this week for a free screening of "A2-B-C" at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the Heritage Room on the second floor of the Nebraska Union, an event sponsored in conjunction with Ishikawa's jazz composition debut.

Ishikawa said finishing the suite and performing it has been a good exercise in explaining his feelings about his home near Fukushima, but it hasn't brought catharsis like one might expect.

Nothing will, he said, until the radiation is cleaned up and his people are allowed to return to their homes and lives without living in the shadow of fear.

Instead, writing the "Suite for the Forgotten" has personalized the tragedy even more for him, although he lives thousands of miles away.

"If the people like it, that's great," Ishikawa said. "Having the opportunity to perform is good, and the more opportunities I have to play the music make me grateful. It helps me know that the people have not been forgotten."

Reach the writer at 402-473-7120 or cdunker@journalstar.com. On Twitter [@ChrisDunkerLJS](https://twitter.com/ChrisDunkerLJS).

Copyright 2015 JournalStar.com. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed.

Tags Jazz Music, Nuclear Meltdown

View 0 Comments

Featured businesses



West Gate Bank



G&G Smoke Shop



Ball Insurance Services



Michael Tish Jewelers



Engine House Cafe

Find a local business

I'm looking for:

Located near:

Hint: Enter a keyword that you are looking for like tires, pizza or doctors or browse the full business directory.

Search

-
- Sections
 - Local News
 - Business
 - Prep Extra
 - Husker Extra
 - Ground Zero
 - Lifestyles
 - e-Edition
 - Obituaries
 - Mugshots

- Connect
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Pinterest
- E-mail alerts
- Android app
- iPad app
- iPhone app
- RSS

- Services
- Digital subscription
- Home Delivery
- Recycling
- Calendar
- Place an ad
- Contact
- Store
- Promotions
- Advertise on our site
- About us

- Community
- Events Calendar
- L Magazine
- Neighborhood Extra
- Star City Health
- Star City Sports
- Star City Golf
- Celebrate
- Business Achievements

- Biz Guide
- Today's Deal
- Find local jobs
- Find a new home
- Find a new car
- Today's Print Ads
- Place an ad

