

FURUYA SISTERS TO SERENADE UCONN

By Emily Lewson
LIFE EDITOR

At 3 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 26, the acclaimed Furuya Sisters will grace Von Der Mehden Recital Hall with a performance of classical music.

This recital is a part of the Furuya Sisters Concert Series. Sunday's concert is a season highlight; it is also their only performance in Connecticut. The event will include piano trios of Mozart, Kriesler and Mendelssohn. During the series, the Furuya Sisters will appear in eight other performances in New Jersey and New York.

The sisters, Mimi, Sakiko and Harumi, are an impressive trio. All three were child prodigies; the earliest prodigy, Harumi, began studying the violin at 2-years-old. The sisters all graduated from the Julliard School in New York City, and their talent is immense.

Rhonda Fleming, an American actress, said of the sisters, "Your talents are obvious, as each of you are personally gifted with a God-given ability to excel in your chosen field of musical entertainment."

She continued, "...warmest best wishes to each of you for God's continued blessings as you pursue brilliant careers in music."

Their impressive talents have taken them around the world. Collectively, they have played in some of the most well-known concert halls, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and Westminster Abbey, among others.

"Very talented ladies and deserve



The Furuya Sisters will be performing at UConn on Oct. 26 at the Von Der Mehden Recital Hall.

PHOTO FROM HARUMI FURUYA

universal recognition," Joan Fontaine, the English-American actress, said.

The group has received praise from other world-renowned figures. These include First Lady Michelle Obama, Portugal's President Aníbal Cavaco Silva, Spain's President José Zapatero, France's Ex-President Nicolas Sarkozy and England's Queen Elizabeth II, among many other notable names.

While their musical talents are to be commended, the group's entrepreneurship is intriguing as well. The Furuya Sisters Concert Series is the only series in the world in which the performers complete all administration and are not a non-profit group. The concert series is thus based solely on profits from ticket sales.

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In early September, the trio wrote to UConn President Susan Herbst, Provost Mun Choi, Assistant Vice President of Academic Affairs & Director of Student Affairs Christine Wilson, Dean of School of Fine Arts Brid Grant and Head of Music Department Eric Rice. The recipients then proceeded to invite the Furuya Sisters to perform at UConn. Therefore, Sunday's concert is a result of communication between the talented performers and UConn administrators.

If the Furuya Sister's talent and ingenuity is not enough to persuade you to go to the concert, consider the benefits of classical music to the brain. It has been found that music reduces stress, induces a meditative state, relieves depression, enhances mood and increases cognitive performances, according to USA Today. So if you are in need of a study break, which doubles as a brain boosting activity, consider attending the Furuya Sister's concert.

Student tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Visit the website furyasisters.com for more information and to purchase tickets.
