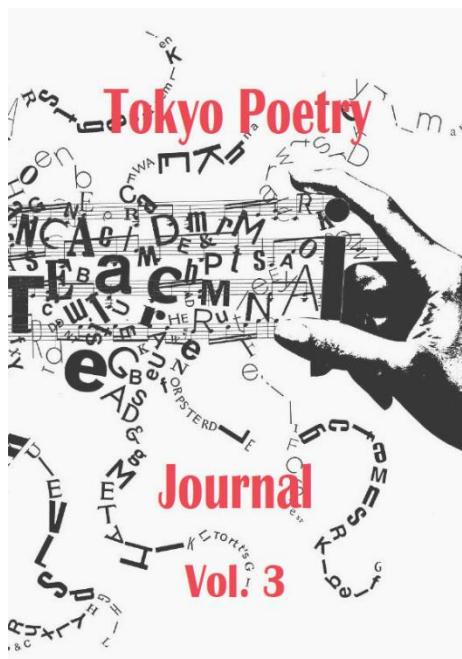


Tokyo Poetry Journal Vol. 3



Daito Bunka University's Professor Jeffrey Johnson, along with retired Professor Barbara Yates, are the founding editors of the *Tokyo Poetry Journal*. This biannual Journal has published three volumes to date, and Volume 4 is underway. The most recently published, Volume 3, was conceived of and largely edited by Professor Johnson, and is highly innovative in a number of respects. The conception of the volume is the confluence of poetry and music and to that end the theme of music permeates Volume 3. The cover design (as well as illustrations in the volume) is an artistic interpretation of a musical score by artist Andrew Topel.

The opening article is Trane DeVore's tribute to his father's fusion of music and poetry spanning from the 1960s to the 1990s. That is followed by Dr. Johnson's interview with Morgan Fisher, long time Tokyo resident who had a number one hit in England at the age of 17 years old and went on to play keyboards in numerous bands including Mott the Hoople and Queen.

The prose pieces are followed by a section of poetry, most of it with musical accompaniment and composed by local poets, Marcellus Nealy, Jeffrey Johnson, Jerry Gordon, another editor of the Journal, Jordan Y.A. Smith, and the fourth editor, Taylor Mignon. There are also songs in this section by Irish musician David Brennan and the Australian who hosts poetry and song open mic nights at Bar Garigari, Sorcha Chisholm. One element of the innovativeness of this volume is technical, most of the poems in this section have musical accompaniment and those poems and the songs have QR codes beside them so that one can hear the poems and songs performed by linking through the QR code. As far as we know this is truly innovative and QR codes have not been employed in this fashion before.

The next section is a visual art section with musical themes. The first artist is Ray Craig, whose art work combines illustration with verbal text that is done in Sex Pistols or ransom note style and appeared in a publication entitled "Kiss Me Series". Next is Kit Nagamura who juxtaposes English haiku to photography. She is a contributor to the Japan Times as well as a haikuist appearing on NHK. Next is Toshihiko Shimizu who was a Fluxus artist and his prints included here have profound musical connections. Shimizu is followed by more work by Topel, and that is followed by another section of poetry.

This section of poetry is not necessarily musically themed but some have musical topics. Poems by Cherise Fong, Barbara Summerhawk (Yates), Joan Anderson, Paul Hullah who is a musician/poet, John Francis Cross, and Aram Saroyan are followed by poems in Japanese by Kitasono Katué with John Solt's translations.

The next section is a poetic interaction/exchange with the avant-garde group Fluxus. Taylor Mignon and Jordan Smith conceived of and organized the Fluxus interaction which includes work by Genpei Akasegawa, Ay-O, Toshi Ichianagi, Takehisa Kosugi, Yoko Ono, Mieko Shiomi, Hi Red Center, and interaction/participation by Joy Waller, Barbara Summerhawk, Jeffrey Johnson, Jordan Smith, Yosuke Tanaka, Michelle Naka Pierce are the interlocutors.

Volume 3 closes with an interview with Samm Bennett, a prolific singer songwriter, and virtuoso musician who plays in numerous bands doing various musical styles and genres as well as playing solo in many venues around the Tokyo area and is also a host at Bar Garigari's open mic.