

CELEBRATE ASIA COMPOSITION COMPETITION SELECTION

World premiere: May 12, 2017

CHRISTOPHER LAROSA

The Tide Jewels

Shizuo Z Kuwahara, conductor

Christopher LaRosa (b. 1990), a doctoral candidate at Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music, won this year's *Celebrate Asia* Composition Competition for his work ***The Tide Jewels***. As LaRosa explained in a program note, "In Japanese mythology, the tide jewels control the motions of the sea. Often depicted as two pearls, the kanju (干珠) controls the ebb-tide, and the manju (満珠) controls the flow-tide. The jewels appear in various legends recorded as early as the Nara period (710–794 CE.) The fable of Tamatori-hime, the "Princess Jewel Taker," served as a popular subject for Ukiyo-e artists such as Utagawa Kuniyoshi. In this story, Fujiwara no Fuhito of the powerful Fujiwara clan embarks on a journey to recover the tide jewels, which were stolen by the dragon god of the sea, Ryūjin. During his travels, he marries a modest shell diver, Tamatori, who bears him a son. Out of love for Fuhito, Tamatori dives down to Ryūjin's undersea palace, where she lulls the dragon and his cephalopod guards to sleep with her music. When Tamatori recovers the tide jewels, the creatures awaken and pursue her. She cuts open her breast to hide the tide jewels, and the blood-clouded water aids her escape. The princess dies from her wound after safely delivering the tide jewels back to her family."

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