



INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL STUDIES GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Fall 2019 Faculty Speaker Series

Dearest Lenny: Letters from Japan and the Making of the World Maestro

by

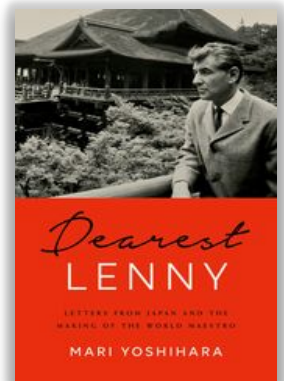
Mari Yoshihara

Professor and Chair,

Department of American Studies

(No recording or videotaping permitted)

Dearest Lenny interweaves the history of Leonard Bernstein's transformation from an American icon to a world maestro with an intimate story of his relationships with two Japanese individuals: Amano Kazuko, a loyal fan who began writing letters to Bernstein in 1947, and Kunihiko Hashimoto, a young man who fell deeply in love with Bernstein in 1979 and later became his business representative. During the period in which these two relationships unfolded, Japan's place in the world and its relationship vis-à-vis the United States changed dramatically, which in turn shaped Bernstein's connection to the country. Yoshihara will trace the making of a global Bernstein amidst the shifting change of classical music that made this American celebrity turn increasingly to Europe and Japan.



Mari Yoshihara is Professor and Chair of American Studies at UHM. From 2005 to 2008 she was the Director of the International Cultural Studies Program. Her areas of expertise are U.S. cultural history, U.S.-East Asian relations, women's/gender studies, Asian American studies, cultural and literary studies. Her publications include *Embracing the East: White Women and American Orientalism* (Oxford, 2003), *Musicians from a Different Shore: Asians and Asian Americans in Classical Music* (Temple, 2007), and most recently *Dearest Lenny: Letters from Japan and the Making of the World Maestro* (Oxford, 2019). She also publishes books in Japanese for both academic and general readers, on topics ranging from how to navigate graduate school in the US to her online dating experience. Since 2014, she has served as the editor of *American Quarterly*, the journal of the American Studies Association. She is also an avid amateur pianist.

**October 2, 2019
Wednesday, 12 – 1.15 pm
Burns Hall, Room 2118, East-West Center**

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