



**February 4, 2015 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Sunni Fass, Executive Director  
[sunni@lotusfest.org](mailto:sunni@lotusfest.org), 812-336-6599

**The Lotus Education & Arts Foundation is proud to announce  
2015 Lotus Blossoms and 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary World Bazaar  
Presented by the Raymond Foundation**

**Bloomington, Indiana** – Spring is just around the corner, and everything’s coming up Blossoms! The nonprofit Lotus Education and Arts Foundation is proud to present its 15th season of Lotus Blossoms – an annual series of educational outreach events highlighting interactive performances at schools and other area locations – as well as the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its signature World Bazaar. In the months of February and March, Lotus Blossoms focuses on younger audiences and those with limited access to high-quality multicultural performing arts, as well as free activities open to the general public. The program’s foundation and largest single event is the Lotus Blossoms World Bazaar, a cultural discovery experience for elementary school children and families. Since 2001, Lotus Blossoms school visits and the Bazaar have reached a cumulative audience of more than 110,000 students, families, and community residents.

To many Bloomington locals, “Lotus” may mean an annual world music and arts festival; however, to thousands of elementary-aged children, “Lotus” means remarkable artist-educators who come directly to their schools each spring. Area children have the opportunity to experience music, song, dance, and storytelling from around the globe, developing an appreciation and respect for different cultural traditions and the people who bring them to life. Additionally, Blossoms community events allow the public to interact with artists in intimate settings and share unique opportunities to learn more about our world.

In 2015, Lotus Blossoms will host one of the largest and most diverse line-ups ever. Artists include **Aallotar** (Finnish music), **Kuniko Yamamoto** (Japanese storytelling/origami), **Dirk Powell & Riley Baugus** (US old-time/Cajun music), **Kinobe & the Wamu Spirit** (Ugandan music), and **Jennifer Goodlander** (Balinese shadow puppetry). Performers will visit at least 15 schools across four south-central Indiana counties, and they will also present a full schedule of free community events, workshops, and demonstrations (including Lotus’s first-ever workshop just for teachers on February 18, entitled “Math & Origami”). This spring will also mark the 20<sup>th</sup> Lotus Blossoms World Bazaar. The Bazaar is the foundation of Lotus outreach programming—the first Bazaar took place in 1996 and eventually grew into the full-fledged Lotus Blossoms program, which started in 2001. This year’s anniversary Bazaar Family Day will take place on Saturday, March 28 from 11:00 am - 2:00 pm at Binford Elementary School.

Complete artist details, up-to-date information, and full public program schedule are available on the Lotus website at [www.lotusfest.org](http://www.lotusfest.org).

###

*Lotus Education & Arts Foundation*

[www.lotusfest.org](http://www.lotusfest.org)

*PO Box 1667, Bloomington, IN 47402*

*812-336-6599 / [media@lotusfest.org](mailto:media@lotusfest.org)*



**February 4, 2015 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Sunni Fass, Executive Director  
[sunni@lotusfest.org](mailto:sunni@lotusfest.org), 812-336-6599

*2015 Lotus Blossoms is presented by The Raymond Foundation and is made possible with support from these sponsors: Mathers Museum of World Cultures, IU African Studies, IU East Asian Studies, Bloomingfoods, Star of Indiana, and IU Ethnomusicology Students' Association. The Lotus Education and Arts Foundation also receives grant support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Indiana Arts Commission, Ivy Tech Community College Bloomington, the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County, and the Indiana University Student Association.*

### **2015 Lotus Blossoms • Featured Artists**

**Aallotar** (pronounced OWL-eh-tar) is a transatlantic collaboration between Finnish-American violinist Sara Pajunen and Finnish accordionist Teija Niku. Niku, from Haapavesi, singing in both English and Finnish, Teija and Sara pay tribute to their respective cultures, which — although they pulsate with many of the same values and energy of 100 years ago — have grown apart. The music of Aallotar is an exploration of those differences, with the intent to create new harmonies that bridge the expanses which water has filled.

**Kuniko Yamamoto** (pronounced COO-nee-ko yah-ma-MOW-toe) enchants audiences of every age with dramatic storytelling that includes myths and fables from ancient and modern Japan. Kuniko uses traditional Japanese music, handcrafted masks, and stylized movement to create a beautiful balance of illusion and reality. She is also skilled in origami, using folded paper animals and faces to bring folk tales alive for young children.

**Dirk Powell & Riley Baugus:** Dirk Powell and Riley Baugus are outstanding solo artists, but together create a dynamite musical duo. With Dirk on the fiddle, bango or accordion and multi-instrumentalist Riley, the pair is a powerhouse of traditional Southern tunes. Riley worked with Dirk to make music for the film *Cold Mountain* and has been touring, teaching workshops, collaborating on award-winning albums, and building banjos ever since.

**Kinobe & the Wamu Spirit:** Born near Lake Victoria, Herbert Kinobe (pronounced chih-NO-bay) is a gifted Ugandan multi-instrumentalist, vocalist, and composer known for his inspired synthesis of African roots and global fusion. He has played in nearly every country in Africa, absorbing different musical traditions as he traveled. He has also performed and given workshops across Europe and North America, showcasing the diversity of traditional African instruments.

**Jennifer Goodlander** is an assistant professor of Theatre History, Theory, and Literature in the Department of Theatre and Drama at Indiana University. A scholar of Asian performance, she has presented and taught performance methods from China, Japan, India, and Indonesia. Her

###

*Lotus Education & Arts Foundation*

[www.lotusfest.org](http://www.lotusfest.org)

PO Box 1667, Bloomington, IN 47402

812-336-6599 / [media@lotusfest.org](mailto:media@lotusfest.org)



**February 4, 2015 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Sunni Fass, Executive Director  
[sunni@lotusfest.org](mailto:sunni@lotusfest.org), 812-336-6599

practical training in Balinese shadow puppetry — wayang kulit — led to her ritual initiation as a dalang, or master puppeteer. Jennifer's performances are built on traditional myths and stories using shadow puppets, music, and narration.

**Free Public Events • Lotus Blossoms**

Thursday, February 19

**Japanese dramatic storytelling and music**

Mathers Museum of World Cultures (416 N. Indiana Ave.)

**7pm** (45 minute program)

Cost: Free

Presented by the Lotus Education and Arts Foundation, and sponsored by IU's Ethnomusicology Students Association and Mathers Museum

Monday, February 23

**Dirk Powell & Riley Baugus – Talk and special demonstration**

IU Archives of Traditional Music (1165 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Morrison Hall Room 117)

**4pm** (45 minute program)

Cost: Free

Presented by the Lotus Education and Arts Foundation and sponsored by IU's Ethnomusicology Students Association

Tuesday, February 24

**An Evening with Dirk Powell & Riley Baugus**

Whitehart Auditorium (122 South Walnut Street)

**7pm** (45 minute program)

Cost: Free

Presented by the Lotus Education and Arts Foundation, and in partnership with Ivy Tech Community College.

Tuesday, March 24

**Kinobe & the Wamu Spirit – Talk and Performance**

Monroe County Public Library, Auditorium (303 East Kirkwood Avenue)

**7pm** (45 minute program)

Cost: Free

Presented by the Lotus Education and Arts Foundation

Saturday, March 28

###

*Lotus Education & Arts Foundation*

[www.lotusfest.org](http://www.lotusfest.org)

PO Box 1667, Bloomington, IN 47402

812-336-6599 / [media@lotusfest.org](mailto:media@lotusfest.org)



**February 4, 2015 – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Sunni Fass, Executive Director

[sunni@lotusfest.org](mailto:sunni@lotusfest.org), 812-336-6599

**20<sup>th</sup> Lotus Blossoms World Bazaar – Family Day**

Binford Elementary School gymnasium (2300 E. 2nd St., Bloomington)

11:00am – 2:00pm

Cost: Free (appropriate for all ages, but especially fun for kids K-6)

Our 20<sup>th</sup> year, a free multicultural arts-in-education event for kids and families

For up-to-date information about the 2015 Lotus Blossoms artists  
and a full schedule of events, please visit <http://lotusfest.org/lotus-blossoms-main>

###

*Lotus Education & Arts Foundation*

[www.lotusfest.org](http://www.lotusfest.org)

*PO Box 1667, Bloomington, IN 47402*

*812-336-6599 / [media@lotusfest.org](mailto:media@lotusfest.org)*