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Tomoko Deguchi of Music Named Thompson Scholar

Winthrop University

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Tomoko Deguchi of Music Named Thompson Scholar

Quick Facts

- The native of Kobe, Japan, said that she has grown dissatisfied with the theory textbook she has used and wants to create her own book that incorporates technology and literature by non-Western composers.
- Deguchi will use her time as a Thompson Scholar to design a capstone experience for music majors that is uniquely Winthrop and will include music by non-Western composers,



Tomoko Deguchi

ROCK HILL, S.C. - Winthrop University's newly appointed **Thompson Scholar Tomoko Deguchi** of the **Department of Music** will spend the next year strengthening the capstone music theory course.

Her appointment was announced by **Debra Boyd**, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Deguchi, a native of Kobe, Japan, teaches the university's courses in music theory and aural skills. In her **Thompson Scholar** proposal, she said that she has grown dissatisfied with the theory textbook she has used and wants to create her own book that incorporates technology and literature by **non-Western composers**.

The capstone music theory course, **MUST 411 Form and Analysis**, is offered every semester. It is required for students who are pursuing **Bachelor of Music Education** and **Bachelor of Music Performance degrees** and is an elective for other music majors. The course covers comprehensive analyses of canonical musical literature, and helps students understand and interpret music in a deeper level.

Deguchi will use her time as a **Thompson Scholar** to design a **capstone experience** for music majors that is uniquely Winthrop. "By increasing the potential literature used in class that includes music by non-Western composers, the course will have a strong impact on students' global learning," she wrote in her proposal. "By incorporating literatures that are performed by ensembles in the music department, the course contents gain more relevancies outside the classroom."

Deguchi's research interests include the music of Toru Takemitsu and other Japanese composers, musical form in the 20th-century music, music narrative, American composers, film music, and intersections between music theory and culture and aesthetics. She writes about her research for academic publications, gives lectures at area conferences, and remains active as a pianist, specializing in contemporary music. In 2008, she founded a new music ensemble, Out of Bounds, which she performs with other featured professional performers from the Charlotte region.

This is the ninth awarding of the **Thompson Scholar Award**, created by **Winthrop Board of Trustees member Bob Thompson and his wife, Norma**, of Rock Hill. The fund provides for reassigned time for two classes per year for a faculty member "to work on projects that strengthen the academic, intellectual, and co-curricular life of the university."

The **Robert and Norma Thompson Endowment** was established during the university's first capital campaign. Other Thompson Scholars are: **Phil Moody**, photography; **Pedro Muñoz**, Spanish; **Carol Marchel**, education; **John Bird**, English; **David Bradbard and Barbara Fuller**, business; **Padmini Patwardhan**, mass communication, **David Stokes**, design; and **Trent Kull**, math.

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