For many centuries, East Asia has attracted western scientists like a magnet. On Deshima, peninsula off the coast near Nagasaki, the famous Leiden-based surgeon-major Philipp Franz von Siebold (1796-1866) experienced the happiest years of his life. His western knowledge of medicine enabled him to cure Japanese patients. In return, he received Japanese artefacts, plants and animals. It resulted in a world-famous collection, nowadays on show in the Leiden Japan Museum SieboldHuis. Von Siebold lectured in Nagasaki, lived with a Japanese woman, was admitted to the capital Edo (forbidden territory for foreigners), and secretly produced maps of Japan. Then his luck turned. He was accused of espionage.

In November 2017, a colourful performance will revive Von Siebold’s story. The Leiden chamber choir Het Zingend Hart, conducted by Guido van Swieten, will vocalize and re-enact Von Siebold’s dramatic walk of life with matching Japanese, Chinese and Indonesian songs (by composers such as Osamu Shimizu and He Lütting). Some oriental texts and themes (such as Balinese kecak) will sound to music by western composers. Thus, the audience will relive Von Siebold’s history to a kaleidoscope of tunes honouring the rich cultures of East Asia. From authentic folk music to striking western orientalisms.

Directed by: Nicoline van de Beek, Ton van Kempen and Eva van der Weerd
Conductor: Guido van Swieten
Production: Coby van der Weerd
With Arie Pos as Philipp Franz von Siebold

In cooperation with dancing group Raiden Yosakoi and students Hiyori Suzuki, Raudya Amalia, Rani Krisnamurthi, Sangqiao Li and Her Gao.
Songs in original languages, spoken texts in Dutch.
World premiere of "Kexi", a composition by Guido van Swieten.
This performance is part of the programme of the Leiden Asia Year (leidenasiayear.nl) and has been realized in cooperation with the Japan Museum SieboldHuis.

Details:
Saturday 11 and 18 November 2017, 20.00 hrs
Sunday 12 and 19 November 2017, 15.00 hrs
Venue: P.J. Veth building, which can be reached through the new main entrance on the side of the Hortus botanicus in Leiden (Rapenburg 73).

Book a seat at this event in Leiden’s Asia Year. Tickets are available through info@hetzingendhart.nl. A regular ticket can be purchased at € 15; discount tickets for children under 12 and students (student ID to be shown at the entrance) are available for € 10. A ticket includes one coffee or tea.

Check our website: hetzingendhart.nl

ようこそ, Yōkoso (be welcome!)