

Dr. Joseph Amato

Dr. Joseph Amato is a composer, educator, and cultural entrepreneur whose work bridges Japanese traditional arts, contemporary creative practice, and community-based cultural exchange. He is the founder of **7artscafe**, a multidisciplinary cultural hub in Yokohama that brings together traditional and modern arts, thoughtfully crafted drinks, and health-conscious, superfood-focused cuisine.

Dr. Amato holds a Ph.D. in Music Composition from New York University and has studied extensively in Japan. He has held teaching and special lecturer positions at institutions including Yokohama National University, Stockton University, Heidelberg College, and Seiha Hōgaku Gakuin. From 2017 to 2021, he founded and directed the Morikami Museum's Japanese traditional music program in Florida and previously served as Director of the Seiha Hōgaku-kai International Summer School. His work has been supported by organizations including the Japan Foundation, Toshiba International Foundation, the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, and New York University. He is also the author of *The Japanese Koto: A Manual for Beginners – Revised and Updated* (2018).

Established in 2021, **7artscafe** reflects Dr. Amato's long-held vision of creating an open and welcoming space where art, conversation, and everyday life intersect. Drawing on decades of experience in Japanese music, international education, and cultural programming, the cafe functions not only as a dining destination but also as a living platform for exhibitions, performances, residencies, and public engagement.

Building on the cultural foundation of 7artscafe, Dr. Amato established the **Edeiken International Artist Foundation (EIAF)**, which operates an international Artist-in-Residence program supporting artists working across disciplines through research, creation, and public programming in Yokohama. Through 7artscafe and EIAF, Dr. Amato continues to develop spaces that encourage meaningful artistic exchange, accessibility, and dialogue - connecting local communities with global artistic voices in a contemporary Japanese context.