

日本祭

2007

*Festival of Japanese Music and Culture*

UNIVERSITY OF THE  
**PACIFIC**  
Conservatory of Music

Concert of Traditional  
Japanese Music

with artists

Yoshio Kurahashi, shakuhachi

Yoko Hirano-Itatani, koto

Ayako Kurahashi, sangen

7:30 p.m.

October 24, 2007

Faye Spanos Concert Hall

**Program**

*Mukaiji (Flute Sound from the Foggy Ocean)*

composer unknown

Yoshio Kurahashi – shakuhachi

*Rokudan (Six Steps)*

Yatsunami Kengyo (1614-1685)

Yoko Hirano-Itatani – koto

*Haru Sandai (Three Themes of Spring)*

Katsutoshi Nagasawa (1923)

*Wakakusa (Young Grass)*

*Kagero (Haze)*

*Hanafubuki (Shower of Cherry Flowers)*

Yoko Hirano-Itatani - koto

Ayako Kurahashi - sangen

*Tsuru no Sugomori (Nesting of a Crane)*

composer unknown

Yoshio Kurahashi – shakuhachi

Intermission

*Yaegoromo (Eight-Fold Garment)*

Ishikawa Koto (1792 - c. 1847)

for classical Sankyoku Ensemble

Yoko Hirano-Itatani - koto

Ayako Kurahashi - sangen

Yoshio Kurahashi - shakuhachi



## Notes

### *Mukaiji* (Flute Sound from the Foggy Ocean)

shakuhachi solo

This piece was passed down at Fudaiji temple, Hamamatsu, Shizuoka Prefecture. Its legendary origin tells of a Zen monk Kyochiku who meditated on top of Mt. Asakuma in Ise province. While he slept, he heard a mysterious and marvelous flute melody floating through the ocean fog and into his dream. Upon awaking, the beautiful melody lingered allowing him to reproduce it. This piece is said to be one of the three oldest shakuhachi pieces.

### *Rokudan* (Six Steps)

koto solo

This is the oldest piece written for koto. It consists of six movements. This piece is known for its perfect simplicity and elegance which sometimes sounds modern. It has inspired the composition of many contemporary pieces including *November Steps* by the famous Japanese composer Toru Takemitsu.

### *Haru Sandai* (Three Themes of Spring)

duet for koto and sangen

1. *Wakakusa...Young Grass.*
2. *Kagero...Haze.*
3. *Hanafubuki...Shower of Cherry Flowers.*

This piece consists of the three sketches of spring. Although each movement has a subtitle, this is not programmatic music. In contrast to traditional music for koto and sangen, in this piece the composer simply tries to express his own feeling about the season.

### *Tsuru no Sugomori* (Nesting of a Crane)

shakuhachi solo.

This piece was passed down at Rempoken temple, Fukushima, Fukushima Prefecture. There are 16 different shakuhachi compositions with this name. This *Tsuru no Sugomori* describes the life cycle of cranes. The tsuru fly from the north, find a safe nesting site, and have chicks. When the fledglings are grown, they leave the nest and the tsuru thank Heaven and Earth.

### *Yaegoromo* (Eight-Fold Garment)

classic Sankyoku ensemble for koto, sangen, and shakuhachi

This is one of the most typical traditional ensemble pieces from Kyoto. Koto and sangen players sing poems while playing the instruments. All of the poems of this piece predate the 12th century. They are so elegant and beautiful that every Japanese person knows them well even today. The instrumental melody expresses the gradual changing of the four seasons.

Poem (translated by Genichi Tsuge)

For your sake  
I have come out on the spring fields  
To gather young shoots.  
On my sleeves  
Snow is falling.

Spring has passed  
And summer seems to have come;  
Pure white are the summer robes  
Hung out to dry  
Over the heavenly Mt. Kagu.

The autumn wind  
Blowing down Mt. Yoshino-  
As the night deepens  
In my village, cold  
The sound of fulling cloth.

On an autumn field  
I seek shelter with the rice  
Under a rough thatch roof-  
My sleeves are soaked  
With the night dew.

A cricket cries  
This frosty night-  
Spreading my robe  
On this humble mat,  
Must I sleep alone?  
On this humble mat,  
Must I sleep alone?

### **Yoshio Kurahashi - Shakuhachi**

Yoshio Kurahashi was born in Kyoto in 1949. He studied shakuhachi since childhood under his father Yodo Kurahashi and later under Homei Matsumura. His studies mainly included classic solo pieces based on the Buddhism tradition and traditional ensemble pieces with Koto and Sangen, but have also included contemporary pieces as a member of Kyoto Hogaku Group. He gave his first recital in Osaka in 1976, and received the Osaka Cultural Festival Award. He made his recital debut in New York in 1981.

Since 1981, he has presented many concerts outside of Japan, including performances in Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, China, Israel, Denmark, Belgium, The Netherlands, Bermuda, Canada and USA. He has performed and lectured at universities and colleges including Queens College, Columbia University, Wesleyan University, Harvard University, Princeton University, University of Pennsylvania, University of Maryland, Tel Aviv University, Bar-Ilan University, Hebrew University, Nebraska University, Oberlin College, Emory University, and Smith College.

In 1995 he began annual workshops named Shakuhachi Intensive in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Boulder CO, Dallas, San Francisco, Portland ME and Montreal. He received the Kyoto City Arts and Culture Association Award in 1999 and New Age Magazine (USA) named his CD Kyoto Spirit "The Best Serene Music CD of the year 1999".

Since 2000, he has performed Japanese-Chinese music in the US and Europe with Chinese musicians including Wu Man, Gao Hong and Liu Fang. Japan's Embassy and Consulate General presented his concerts in Oklahoma City and Houston with Ayako Kurahashi in 2005, and in Ottawa with Yoko Hirano-Itatani in 2006.

### **Ayako Kurahashi - Sangen**

Ayako Kurahashi was born in Osaka, Japan. She studied Osaka style traditional Koto from her childhood under her mother Ms Reiko Maeda, and later studied Kyushu styled traditional Sangen under the renowned master Ms Shizue Sasagawa. As a student of Kobe College (Kobe Jogakuin Daigaku), she belonged to the Contemporary Koto Club instructed by the Sawai School. After marrying Yoshio Kurahashi, she taught Koto and Sangen at Osaka City University.

Her performances include concerts with Yoshio Kurahashi at the University of Oklahoma; the Museum of Fine Arts of Houston, sponsored by Japan's Consulate General of Houston; and the Museum of Natural History of Washington DC, sponsored by the Smithsonian Association.

### **Yoko Hirano-Itatani - Koto**

Yoko Hirano-Itatani was born in Kanagawa, Japan. She graduated from the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music in 1997, having majored in Japanese traditional music under the renowned musician, Professor Masateru Ando. She specializes in the Ikuta-style Koto and the Sangen. In 1995 she performed in the Young Artist Concert in Chiba, Japan, and held annual recitals of her musical trio "Sonet"(violin, piano and Koto) in 1998-2000.

She moved to Ottawa in 2000 where she performed koto at the Tulip festival, the Music and People Festival in Montreal, and at several cultural events at the University of Ottawa, Carleton University, the Museum of Civilization, and Parliament Hill. In 2006, she gave a joint recital with Yoshio Kurahashi (shakuhachi) that was promoted by the embassy of Japan. She currently lives in Berkeley, California where she continues her music activity performing several joint concerts and teaching Koto and Sangen.

She is a member of Miyagi-kai and Mori-no-kai associations in Japan.



### Festival Events

Exhibition of Japanese Art - Reception and Gallery Talk by Ren Brown  
The Reynolds Gallery - Thursday, October 25 - 5:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Film: Throne of Blood directed by Akira Kurosawa  
Pacific Theater - Thursday, October 25 - 8:00 p.m.

Concert of New Japanese Music with Composers Joji Yuasa and Kiyoshi Furukawa  
Faculty Artist performers: Frank Wiens, Patricia Shands, Sonia Leong,  
Margaret Perry, Igor Valigan, Nina, Flyer, and others  
Faye Spanos Concert Hall - Friday, October 26 - 7:30 p.m.

Lecture: The Films of Kurosawa - Diane Borden  
WPC 140 - Thursday, October 25 - noon

Lecture: Featuring Composers-in-residence Joji Yuasa and Kiyoshi Furukawa  
Recital Hall - Friday, October 26 - 2:00 p.m.

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