



Photography: Takaoi Kazuo

# KYOTO SAN

March 14

Belgium, Gent: Muziekcentrum De Bijloke  
Jozef Kluyskensstraat 2  
Start: 20h00

March 16

The Netherlands, Utrecht: RASA,  
Start: 20h00

March 17

The Netherlands, Rotterdam: Shambhala  
Med.Centr.  
Mathenesserlaan 401b  
Start: 19h30  
(Workshop Shakuhachi from 13h00 – 17h00)

Traditional Sankyoku ensemble from  
Kyoto, Japan with:

Yodo Kurahashi  
shakuhachi

Ayako Kurahashi  
koto

Shigehiro Shimada  
sangen and koto

PROGRAM:

- 1 Shika no Tone (Deers calling in the Distance) - shakuhachi solo.
  - 2 Taki-Ochi (Waterfall) - shakuhachi solo.
  - 3 Yugao (Moonflower) - duet for koto and sangen.
  - 4 Chidori no Kyoku (Song of the Plovers) - trio for two koto and shakuhachi.
- Interval
- 5 Jimbo Sanya - shakuhachi solo.
  - 6 Hagi no Tsuyu (Dew on the Hagi Flower) - trio for koto, sangen and shakuhachi.

## KYOTO SAN

was founded in 2008 and has regularly performed in and outside Japan. The ensemble concentrates on traditional Japanese music, but the players know each other from the time they were members of the Kyoto Hogako Group, where they concentrated on modern Japanese compositions.

'Honkyoku' is the original, meditative style for playing shakuhachi solo and 'sankyoku' is a form of court music from the Edo period, that is played by koto (thirteen stringed zither), sangen (three-stringed, long-necked lute, also called shamisen) and shakuhachi (bamboo flute). With the use of school specific singing techniques, which are sometimes unusual for western ears, the sangen player tells the story going with the music.

Although sankyoku, as the word says, is ensemble music for three instruments, the searching for harmonic concord is not a goal in itself. The aim is instead creating varied sound shades using refined melodic features. The subtlety of the sangen, elegance of the koto and the Zen spirituality of the shakuhachi combine to create a beautiful synthesis.



Yodo Kurahashi II

started his shakuhachi study at an early age, studying with his father Yodo Kurahashi I and later continuing with Homei Matsumura. With those teachers, he studied mainly 'honkyoku', the traditional solo pieces in the Buddhist tradition, and 'sankyoku' with koto and sangen.

He started to perform in Osaka in 1976, where he received the Osaka Cultural Festival Award and had his first international performance in New York in 1981. Since that time, he has performed and given guest lectures outside Japan in other Asiatic countries, the US, Canada and western Europe. With his way of playing, he won various contests. In 1990 he was appointed director of various cultural institutions at Kyoto, including the Myoanji Temple. Since 2000 he has approached his music from a wider perspective and has done various projects with traditional Chinese, but also Western musicians, like the famous Chinese Pipa player Liu Fang and the Dutch pianist Ronald Brautigam. In 2012 he organized the quadrennial World Shakuhachi Festival in Kyoto. At the age of 60 he adopted the name Yodo Kurahashi II, in memory of his father.



Shigehiro Shimada

studied sangen (Kyushu style) and koto (Ikuta School) with Haruko Kurabe, Nobu Tokuyoshi, and later with Mamoru Ono. He started to perform in 1974 and has since regularly performed in Japan, Russia and Europe. With his style of playing, he has won various contests.



Ayako Kurahashi-Maeda

studied shamisen (Kyushu style) and koto (Ikuta School), initially under the guidance of her mother, Reiko Maeda and later with Shizue Sasagawa. Since 1995, she has performed, together with her husband Yoshio Yodo Kurahashi, regularly in Japan, the US, Canada and Western Europe.