

Sound of Bamboo

With Kurahashi Yodo II, Shakuhachi

Main Space Concert Series

Main Space at Tobin Lofts, San Antonio College
February 7, 7:30 pm

Program

Mukaiji (Flute Sound from the Foggy Ocean)

Taki-Ochi (Waterfall)

Kumoijishi (Lion Dancing in Clouds)

Shika no Tone Duet (Call of the Deer)

With Martha Reika Fabrique

Jimbo Sanya (Three Valleys)

Brief Intermission

Tsuru no Sugomori (Nesting of a Crane)

Fukushima version

Kurahashi Yodo II

Born in Kyoto four years after World War II, Kurahashi Yoshio started learning shakuhachi, the traditional Japanese end-blown flute, at age ten under his father's guidance. Later studying under Matsumura Homei of Nara, in 1976 he performed his first solo concert, winning the Osaka Cultural Festival Award. Four years later he became director of the Mujuan shakuhachi school founded in Kyoto by his father, and shortly afterward began touring throughout Asia, Europe, Israel, and the U.S., playing and teaching shakuhachi. In 1999 Kurahashi released his first CD album, *Kyoto Spirit*, followed in 2001 by an album of traditional Chinese and Japanese music for shakuhachi. Since 1995, his annual intensive classes throughout the U.S. have become very popular. His sense of humor and generous attitude are well known to his students (who simply call him "sensei"), and to many others who enjoy traditional shakuhachi music. Today, because of his exceptional technique and a wide repertoire bridging traditions and cultures alike, Kurahashi Yoshio is sought by composers and musicians of many genres wishing to incorporate shakuhachi into their music. (from *Kyoto Journal*, November, 2017).

The Shakuhachi

The shakuhachi is an end-blown edge aerophone (flute) from Japan. Due to its versatility and variety of sound production, the shakuhachi enjoys wide use not only within traditional forms of Japanese music but also in art and international forms of music such as jazz and pop. One strong association of this instrument is with Buddhism; the shakuhachi developed as an instrument for 'blowing Zen' and was used by the fuke (or huke) sect in Buddhist services. Many of the core pieces in the present day shakuhachi solo repertoire originated in this context. During the Meiji Restoration (1868-1912 CE) the shakuhachi was incorporated into the sankyoku chamber ensemble in which it has become a standard instrument. Since the 18th century learning to play the shakuhachi has taken place in secular institutions called ryu ('style') established by iemoto (acknowledged 'masters'), who license qualified students to become instructors of new students. The Kinko-ryu and Tozan-ryu are the two major stylistic schools of shakuhachi playing today. Historically women did not play the shakuhachi because of its association with priests, but this is changing in modern Japan (from Grinnell College Instrument Collection).