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Strings Revolution: History and Music of Shamisen and Geisha

Resources

Shamisen

Film:

Kubo and the Two Strings (2016) OCLC: 1155092874

General Info:

Marusan Hashimoto Co.

<http://www.marusan-hashimoto.com/english/>

Making and Buying Shamisen:

Tokyo Teshigoto

<https://tokyoteshigoto.tokyo/en/kikuokaws>

Sangenshi Kikuoka — “Kojyami Chinton Kit”

https://www.syokuninkai.com/products/detail.php?product_id=463 (in Japanese)

Bachido USA

<https://bachido.com>

Sasaya (my shamisen store)

Mr. Shinozaki in Sugamo, Tokyo, Tel: 03-3941-6323 (in Japanese)

Books:

Henry Johnson, *The Shamisen*, Brill (2010)

Gerald Groemer, *The Sprit of Tsugaru*, Harmonie Park (1999)

William Malm, *Traditional Japanese Music and Musical Instruments*, Kōdansha Int. (2000)



Geisha

Film and Documentary:

A Geisha (1953) by Mizoguchi Kenji OCLC: 785846930

NHK Documentary “A Tale of Love and Honor: Life in Gion”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A3MIHPpYlXE&feature=youtu.be>

BBC Documentary “Geisha Girl”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gWSEQGZgjs&feature=youtu.be>



Books:

Peabody Essex Museum, *Geisha: Beyond the Painted Smile* (2004)

Liza Dalby, *Geisha*, Vintage (1985)

Liza Dalby, *Little Songs of the Geisha*, Tuttle (2000)

Kelly Foreman, *The Gei of Geisha*, Ashgate (2008)

Iwasaki Mineko, *Geisha, A Life*, Atria (2002)

John Foster, *Geisha & Maiko of Kyoto*, Schiffer (2009)

Japanese Music and Arts

Begin Japanology and Japanology Plus
(NHK TV series hosted by Peter Barakan)

Main Website:

<https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/ondemand/program/video/japanologyplus/?type=tvEpisode&>

Shamisen:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KizZ09vogBY>

Bunraku:

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x7kylch>

Kabuki:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CbYRaKilD1M>

Geisha:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZzevWcTwCZY>

Quiz

What are these Japanese instruments called?

selections: 1- *kotsuzumi*, 2 - *shamisen*, 3 - *fue*, 4 - *taiko*, 5 - *ōtsuzumi*

A.



B.



C.



D.



E.



Answers: 1- *kotsuzumi* = E, 2 - *shamisen* = C, 3 - *fue* = D, 4 - *taiko* = B, 5 - *ōtsuzumi* = A

A: How many strings does *shamisen* have?

1. one 2. two 3. three

B: What is the name of the plectrum used for *shamisen*?

1. *taiko* 2. *bachi* 3. *hibachi*

C: What type of *shamisen* is used for *kabuki* music?

1. *futozao* (thick) 2. *chūzao* (mid-thick) 3. *hosozao* (thin)

D: What does “*geisha*” mean?

1. actress 2. artists 3. lady of the night

E: What genre of music do *geisha* play at the banquet?

1. *kouta* (small songs) 2. *nagauta* (long songs) 3. *gidayū* (puppet theatre songs)

Answers: A = 3, B = 2, C = 3, D = 2, E = 1