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### **An Overview of Music in Japan**

Western Classical Music

Western Popular Music

Jazz

Salsa (Orquesta de la Luz)

Hula

Tango

Okinawan music

J-Pop

Tsugaru shamisen and folk song

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Gagaku 雅楽 – Court Music [Nara 710-794]

Shōmyō 声明– Buddhist Chant [Heian 794-1185]

Noh 能– Theater [Muromachi 1336-1573]

Biwa 琵琶 – Recitation of stories lute (biwa) [Heike biwa, Kamakura 1185-1333]

Koto 箏– 13-string zither [Edo1603-1868]

Shamisen 三味線– 3-string lute [Edo]

Shakuhachi 尺八– end-blown bamboo flute [Edo]

Kabuki 歌舞伎– Theater [Edo]

Bunraku 文楽– Puppet theater [Edo]

Min'yō 民謡– Folk music (many regional styles)

Enka 演歌 – old style of pop music [Meiji roots 1868-1912]

Taiko 太鼓– drum [post-war Showa 1926-1989]

### **What should you know about traditional Japanese music? [in no particular order]**

- Most traditional Japanese instruments originated in China, but the music played on those instruments has changed dramatically
- Each traditional Japanese instrument has its own notation system, and some instruments have more than one notation system
- New music continues to be composed for all traditional Japanese instruments
- Traditional Japanese music is organized into stylistic schools for each instrument, each with its own headmaster, styles, and repertoire
- Traditional Japanese music has not been a part of school music classes until recently, and is still not the primary focus
- Music is not a universal language; different listening techniques are required for traditional Japanese music (horizontal rather than vertical)
- Traditionally, the concept of space/silence is different
- Master-student relationship is paramount
- “We do it the way it’s always been done”

### **Names, Titles and Terms**

箏 Ch: zheng; Jp: koto, sō

琴 Ch: qin; Jp: koto, kin

箏曲 sōkyoku (koto music)

門+日=間 mon (gate) + hi (sun) = ma (space)

Kata 形 How you do something is as important as what you do

Yatsunashi Kengyō 八橋檢校 (d. 1685)

Sankyoku 三: Koto 箏, Shamisen 三味線, Shakuhachi 尺八, (Kokyu 胡弓)

Miyagi Michio 宮城道雄 (1894-1956)

Jūshichigen (bass koto) 十七弦箏, invented 1921 by Miyagi Michio

Nosaka Sōju 野坂操壽 (1938-2019)

Nijūgen (20-string koto) 二十弦箏, invented 1969 by Nosaka Keiko (Sōju) and Miki Minoru 三木稔

*Sakura* さくら

*Rokudan no Shirabe* 六段の調

*Hikaru Umi* 光る海

*Kurokami* 黒髪

Jiuta 地唄 (地歌)

*Mari Tsuki* まりつきうう j

*Yamazato no Haru* 山里の春

*Kodemari no Hana* こでまりの花