

# CU ★ PRESENTS

2021-22 Season



College of Music  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

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## CU Presents

### Digital Program

*Spring 2022*

#### Editors

Sabine Kortals Stein

Becca Vaclavik

#### Designer

Sabrina Green

#### Photography

CU Boulder Photography

## AT THE PERFORMANCE

- Please refrain from using electronic devices during the performance. Feel free to view this program on your device at any time prior to the performance, during intermission or after the performance ends.
- Photography and video recordings of any type are strictly prohibited during the performance.
- Smoking is not permitted anywhere. CU Boulder is a smoke-free campus.

**CU ★ PRESENTS** is the home of performing arts at the University of Colorado Boulder.



The mission of the **University of Colorado Boulder College of Music** is to inspire artistry and discovery, together.



*The College of Music acknowledges that the university sits upon land within the territories of the Ute, Cheyenne and Arapaho peoples. Further, we acknowledge that 48 contemporary tribal nations are historically tied to Colorado lands.*

# CU Japanese Ensemble

Mami Itasaka-Keister, director [stage name: Miko Bando]

Jay Keister, assistant director

2 p.m., Saturday, April 3, 2022

Grusin Music Hall

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## Program

### ***Hanagasa Ondo*** (“Flower Hat Song”)

Traditional

An example of Japanese folk songs (*minyo*) that musically and lyrically represent different regions of Japan. This song is from the fertile rice-producing Yamagata prefecture and performed during the summer Obon festival with dancers using hats decorated with flowers.

### ***Kurokami*** (“Black Hair”)

Kineya Sakichi and Sakurada Jisuke

A dance piece from the kabuki play *O Akinai Hiru ga Kojima* which premiered in Edo (Tokyo) in 1784. In the play, this song is sung by Tatsuhime, wife of the famous samurai ruler Yoritomo, expressing her jealous anger over his affair with another woman. The metaphor of her black hair is interwoven with the snow falling outside to suggest the passing away of time. Choreography by Miko Bando.

### ***Taiyo-san*** (“Mr. Sun”)

Ichiko Aoba

An ode to a lover, “Mr. Sun” is one of contemporary songwriter Ichiko Aoba’s most well-known songs in Japan. Performed today by Nelson Walker.

## ***Hauru no Ugoku Shiro* (“Howl’s Moving Castle”)**

Joe Hisaishi

This is music from the 2004 anime film *Howl’s Moving Castle*. Directed by Hayao Miyazaki, this film of two kingdoms at war was inspired by the director’s opposition to the 2003 Iraq war. Performed today by Min Ling Chua, Nelson Walker, and Hao Jin.

## ***Koga Ninpo Cho* (“Art of the Koga Ninja”)**

Go Sakabe

This song comes from the 2018 animated film series *Basilisk*. Adapted from a *manga* (comic book) based on a 1958 novel about two warring clans in 1614, the song concerns a Romeo/Juliet-like story of boy and girl ninja on opposing sides who have no choice but to fight each other.

## **Taiko Ensemble: *Yatai/Matsuri Taiko***

Traditional

Ensembles for *taiko* drums with flutes first developed in Japan during the 1950s and are now found throughout the US and the world. This piece is based on music and dance from Japanese festivals (*matsuri*). Comic characters that represent Japanese gods typically appear, including Hyotoko (a country bumpkin), Okame (a puffy-cheeked country woman), and Ebisu (God of good fortune).

## ***Kami mai* (Spirit dance)**

Traditional

A brief dance interlude in the style of Noh drama in which a spirit dances, accompanied by *nokan* (noh flute) and *tsuzumi* (shoulder drum).



## Taiko Ensemble: *Hiryu*/Demon drumming

Daihachi Oguchi/Traditional

Wearing masks to transform into gods or spirits (*kami*) is a tradition in Japan that dates back to ancient times. This performance of demon drummers recounts a famous story from the 16th century in which a community of defenseless farmers in Ishikawa defeated a samurai army by masquerading as demons drumming in the forest at night to frighten away the invaders. At the end of this piece, the demons are driven away by the power of handbells (*suzu*) used by Shinto priests for purification which is symbolic during our age of pandemics.

## *Soran Bushi* (“Soran Song”)

Traditional

One of the most well-known minyo songs in Japan, *Soran Song* comes from the northern island of Hokkaido and sings of the hard life of working fishermen. Originally sung by fishermen, the song is accompanied by a dance choreographed by Miko Bando that depicts the work of rowing and hauling in driftnets full of fish. This traditional song now exists in many different versions in Japan, including rock, jazz and hip hop versions.

# Japanese music and dance by the CU Japanese Ensemble

The CU Japanese Ensemble is a class in the College of Music that is dedicated to hands-on learning of Japanese music and dance and is open to all CU students. The group learns a wide variety of music and dance from many regions of Japan.

Japanese music is typically based on songs that reflect styles of Japanese poetry, sung in lines of five or seven syllables. Song lyrics evoke images of landscape, seasons, weather, animals and legendary figures of Japan, in order to illustrate Shinto religious ideals of harmony between the gods and human beings in nature, as well as Buddhist themes of the transient nature of existence in this world.

Traditional instruments studied by the group include: *shamisen* (skin-covered, three-string plucked lute), *shinobue* (transverse bamboo folk flute), *nokan* (transverse bamboo flute from noh drama), *shakuhachi* (end-blown bamboo flute), *taiko* (double-headed, barrel-shaped, stick-struck drums of various sizes), *kotsuzumi* (shoulder-held, hourglass-shaped, pressure drum) and *otsuzumi* (hip-held, hourglass-shaped drum).

## CU Japanese Ensemble

Linnea Abbot	Hao Jin	Fabian Yue
Flemming Anderson	Alex Loran	Caroline Joy Hofmann
Joe Barradas	Rain Michael	Brenna Saia
Mary Bergstrom	Nat Mick	Arielle Schlickman-Elak
Min Ling Chua	Silas Mitchell	Atsuko Sono
Sam Eisenberger	James Morris	Brandon Stover
Liliana Eurich	Gareth Rader	Mami Itasaka-Keister
Sam Falberg	Kris Slimko	(director)
Colin Fraser	Will Snider	Jay Keister (assistant
Sam Hahn	Nelson Walker	director)

Special thanks to: Caroline Joy Hofmann, Brenna Saia, Brandon Stover, Atsuko Sono, Arielle Schlickman-Elak

# CU ★ PRESENTS



## Upcoming events at the College of Music

*Event details are subject to change, but the CU Presents website will always be up-to-date.*

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College of Music

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

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*As of Jan. 10, 2022*

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