



College of Music

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

CU Japanese Ensemble

Mami Itasaka-Keister (Miko Bando), co-director
Jay Keister, co-director

2:00 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 5, 2017
Grusin Music Hall
Imig Music Building

Be engaged. Be inspired. Be here.

Be Boulder.

Program

Kokiriko bushi (“Bamboo stick song”)

This folk song from Toyama in central Japan was originally sung during rice planting to ask the gods (*kami*) for a good harvest. Performances typically feature percussion instruments originally used for their magic power: *kokiriko* is a pair of thin bamboo sticks struck together while singing; *binsasara* is a string of wooden plaques that are rolled together, each plaque representing the human desires, the causes of human suffering. Dancers wear straw hats (*tori oi gasa*) to chase away birds from the newly sewn fields.

Kouta Songs

Kouta literally means “short song” and this genre represents the music of Japanese *geisha* (female entertainers). Like haiku poetry, *kouta* songs are usually very brief, illustrating a single poetic idea or image. Such songs often concern unrequited love and reflect the hard life of the geisha. The medley includes the traditional song *Mushi no ne o* (“Sound of Insects”) and two original songs composed by Miko Bando: *Kinmokusei* (“Kinmoku Tree”) and *Aki Matsuri* (“Autumn Festival”).

Shin kanoko Dojoji (“Maiden of Dojoji Temple”)

The story of Dojoji is one of the oldest performance genres of Japan. The story concerns a woman whose former lover became a Buddhist priest and she vows revenge against him. Disguised as a dancer, the woman enters the temple in pursuit of the priest as he hides inside a large temple bell. Transforming into a serpent, she wraps herself around the bell and melts it with her anger. Because of its associations with the snake, in Japan this dance drama is often performed to calm down the spirits of nature. The version presented today is a kabuki-style dance piece that is strongly influenced by Noh drama, featuring drums and flutes from Noh. Our principal dancer, Mami Itasaka-Keister (known by her stage name Bando Miko) learned this dance from her teacher, Ms. Bando Miyoka, and is joined by three of her current students.

Mogamigawa Funauta (“Mogami River Boat Song”)

This is a work song that was sung by boatmen in the pre-modern days of hauling goods by riverboat through the mountainous regions of Japan. Many of the words are based on vocables called *kakegoe* (shouts or cries) used by boatmen to pass the time while rowing.

Taiko drumming

Wearing masks to transform into gods or spirits (*kami*) is a tradition in Japan that dates back to ancient times. The following pieces for taiko drum and flute ensemble are presented as a mini-play arranged by Miko Bando and features masked groups of animals and demons.

Part One: *Yami* (“Darkness”)/*Onibino Warabe* (“Child of spirit fire”). In this opening section, a group of animals gather quietly in the forest at night to play a medley of musical selections from a recent Japanese anime film, *Kamisama Hajimemashita*.

Part Two: *Hiryu/Oshimo doshi oni taiko*. In the second section, the demons of the forest awake from all the revelry and frighten away the animals. This 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. The demons are eventually driven away by the power of handbells (*suzu*) used by Shinto priests for purification.

Soran Bushi (“Soran Song”)

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 that depicts the work of rowing and hauling in driftnets full of fish.

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, 3-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).

Participants

Caitlin Batty	Kelsey Fuller	Emily Rives	Caroline Joy Hofmann
Tasha Bond	Stephanie Gillis	Jenna Parks	Arielle Schlickman-Elak
Allison Charles	Holiday McAllister	Hannah Russek	Halley Trujillo
Benjamin Cefkin	Caeli McCusker	Taylor Salazar	Naomi Pederson
Jonathan Colegrove	Daniel Obluda	Alexandra Siso	Atsuko Sono

Join a World Music Ensemble

All CU World Music Ensembles are classes for credit offered by The College of Music and are open to all students of CU regardless of major. No previous musical experience or audition is required to join.

Men's Chorus, Women's Chorus and Collegiate Chorale

7:30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 5
Grusin Music Hall

The University Men's and Women's choruses are devoted to the study and performance of voice-specific repertoire and perform in several on-campus settings. The Collegiate Chorale, a mixed voice choir, consists of 50-75 men and women, primarily comprised of undergraduate non-music majors, and performs primarily contemporary choral literature in addition to repertoire from all historical periods.



CU PERFORMING ARTS
music

Upcoming Events at the College of Music

Vocal Jazz and Madrigal Singers

7:30 p.m., Monday, Nov. 6
First Presbyterian Church

Early Music Ensemble

7:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 10
Grusin Music Hall

Thompson Jazz Combos

7:30 p.m., Monday, Nov. 6
Old Main Chapel

Ekstrand Competition Final

2:00 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 12
Grusin Music Hall

Percussion Ensemble

7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 8
Grusin Music Hall

University Choir and

University Singers

7:30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 12
Grusin Music Hall

Concert Jazz Ensemble and

Jazz Ensemble II

7:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 9
Grusin Music Hall

Chamber Brass Concert

7:30 p.m., Monday, Nov. 13
Grusin Music Hall

Learn more at colorado.edu/music

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