



JICC  
EMBASSY OF JAPAN

[Home](#)[About](#)[Visit](#)[Japan Guide](#)[Resources](#)[Main Embassy](#)

## Exploring the Shakuhachi: A Journey of Sound with Kojiro Umezaki

Lecture

Presented by JICC, Embassy of Japan

7 SEPT 2023

THU, 6:30 PM

JICC

Immerse yourself in the history and sounds of the *shakuhachi* (尺八), a vertically held, end-blown bamboo flute with centuries of history. Across the ages, the shakuhachi has graced the courts as a musical instrument and accompanied monks in their meditative practices.

While not considered a mainstream musical instrument, today the shakuhachi is embraced by and actively practiced by amateurs and professionals both in- and outside of Japan. Join us for a talk and short performance by shakuhachi player, composer, and professor of music, **Kojiro Umezaki**. Umezaki will introduce this instrument's historical roots and practice as well as its role as a contributing participant in the globally evolving arena of creative music-making.



### Professor Kojiro Umezaki

Noted by The New York Times as a "virtuosic, deeply expressive shakuhachi player and composer" and the LA Times as one of the "better kept secrets of Southern California music," **Kojiro Umezaki** (梅崎康二郎) has performed regularly with the Silkroad Ensemble since 2001. He appears on the Grammy Award-winning album *Sing Me Home, A Playlist Without Borders, Off the Map*, and the Grammy-nominated 2015 documentary film, *The Music of Strangers*, directed by Morgan Neville. In 2014, In a Circle Records released (*Cycles*) – an album of Umezaki's original work – and, in 2021, he collaborated with Wu Man to create the duo album 流芳 *Flow*. Other notable recordings as performer, composer, and/or producer include Brooklyn Rider's *Dominant Curve*, Nicole Mitchell's *Mandorla Awakening II*, Kei Akagi's *Aqua Puzzle*, and Huun Huur Tu's *Ancestors Call*. Born to a Japanese father and a Danish mother, Umezaki grew up in Tokyo and continues to explore global and hybrid practices in music. He is currently Professor of Music at the University of California, Irvine.



REGISTER FOR TICKETS

CLICK TO REGISTER

This event is free and open to the public, but registration through [Eventbrite](#) is required. Doors open at 6:00PM. The program begins at 6:30PM. No admittance after 6:30PM or once seating is full.

Registered guests will be seated on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note that seating is limited and registration does not guarantee guests a seat.

To modify your registration, please email [jicc@ws.mofa.go.jp](mailto:jicc@ws.mofa.go.jp). Your registration is not transferable.

### PHOTO & VIDEO POLICY

The Japan Information & Culture Center (JICC), Embassy of Japan reserves the right to use any photograph/video taken at any event sponsored by JICC, without the expressed written permission of those included within the photograph/video. JICC may use the photograph/video in publications or other media material produced, used or contracted by JICC including but not limited to: brochures, invitations, newspapers, magazines, television, social media, websites, etc. To ensure the privacy of individuals and children, images will not be identified using full names or personal identifying information without written approval from the photographed subject, parent or legal guardian. A person attending a JICC event who does not wish to have their image recorded for distribution should make their wishes known to the photographer/videographer, and/or the event organizers.

1150 18th Street NW, Suite 100 | Washington, D.C. 20036-3838  
TEL: 202-238-6900 | [jicc@ws.mofa.go.jp](mailto:jicc@ws.mofa.go.jp)

© 1981-2024 Japan Information & Culture Center, Embassy of Japan