

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Press Advisory from the Japan Information and Culture Center
Embassy of Japan, D.C.



JAPAN INFORMATION
AND CULTURE CENTER
在米日本大使館広報文化センター



**FREE JAPANESE PERFORMANCES AT THE
JOHN F. KENNEDY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS**
Millennium Stage Performances – *Family Opera: Hansel and Gretel* and
Tsugaru Shamisen Dois “HAZUKI”: Inspiring new sound rooted deeply in tradition

WASHINGTON, D.C., (March 2, 2016) – The Japan Information and Culture Center (JICC), Embassy of Japan, D.C. is pleased to present two nights of family-friendly twists to traditional Japanese performance at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts' Millennium Stage during the 2016 National Cherry Blossom Festival. *Cost: Free.*

On Sunday, March 27, 2016 at 6PM, guests will have the chance to participate in an evening of family-friendly, four-dimensional opera. Opera Pomme Rouge (OPR), founded two years ago by international opera director Anna Etsuko Tsuri, will present an abridged English version of the family opera *Hansel and Gretel*. An interactive experience for all ages, the audience will have many opportunities to participate with props, sing and dance, and interact with the actors during this lively performance.

On Wednesday, March 30th at 6PM, guests will be able to attend the return of Ko Takahashi and Misao Habu as *Tsugaru Shamisen Dois “HAZUKI”*. Each playing shamisen – a traditional Japanese instrument from the late Meiji period – the duo has created a new fusion of percussive tsugaru-style shamisen music with the addition of a synthesizer, cello, and drums. Cherishing old traditions while creating new music, this duo combines traditional Japanese folk songs with fresh new sounds for a truly original performance.

WHO The JICC, along with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, have coordinated two nights of performances: *The Family Opera: Hansel and Gretel* and *Tsugaru Shamisen Dois “HAZUKI”*: Inspiring new sound rooted deeply in tradition. *Tsugaru Shamisen Dois “HAZUKI”*: Inspiring new sound rooted deeply in tradition is also supported by the Japan Foundation NY.

The Family Opera: Hansel and Gretel is presented by international opera director Anna Etsuko Tsuri as part of her company, Opera Pomme Rouge. Ms. Tsuri is an internationally experienced opera stage director and lighting designer.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Press Advisory from the Japan Information and Culture Center
Embassy of Japan, D.C.

Tsugari Shamisen Dois “HAZUKI” is a tsugaru shamisen duo comprised of Ko Takahashi and Masao Habu. They will be accompanied by Kayo Tsuchiya on synthesizer, Mariko Takahashi on cello, Takeshi Endo on drums, and Hitoshi Omori on sound engineering. This performance will be their third year with the National Cherry Blossom Festival.

WHEN Sunday, March 27, 2016, 6-7PM – *Family Opera: Hansel and Gretel*
Wednesday, March 30th, 2016, 6-7PM – *Tsugari Shamisen Dois “HAZUKI”*: *Inspiring new sound rooted deeply in tradition*

WHERE The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts’ Millennium Stage
2700 F St NW, Washington, D.C. 20566

PICTURES



Family Opera: Hansel and Gretel



Tsugari Shamisen Dois “HAZUKI”
Inspiring new sound rooted deeply in tradition

FURTHER INFORMATION

- A. Anna Etsuko Tsuru, Opera Director: <http://www.annaetsukotsuri.com/>
- B. Tsugari Shamisen Dois “HAZUKI”: <http://doishazuki.wix.com/hazuki#!liveinfo/cnru>

ABOUT THE JICC

The Japan Information and Culture Center (JICC) is a part of the Public Affairs Section of the Embassy of Japan in Washington D.C. The JICC's goal is to promote better understanding of Japan and Japanese culture by providing a wide range of information and events to the American public. For more information, please visit: <http://www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/jicc/>.

###