

# **The Concert Program of the Japanese Folk Music Band “DENSHA”**



# DENSHA

March 18, 2019 16:00-17:30  
Russian-Tajik (Slavonic) University  
Assembly Hall

**JAPAN FOUNDATION**   
国際交流基金

## **Information on Japanese musical instruments and Shishi-mai**

### ***Shinobue (Bamboo flute)***

Bamboo flute is a prototype of a transverse flute. It first appeared in ancient India and was transmitted along with Buddhism from China and the Korean Peninsula. For making a conventional transverse flute a low-growing bamboo is dried and holes are made in it. The flute is used to perform folk songs as well as musical accompaniment during the demonstration of various types of Japanese arts. This flute can emit sounds from subtle to delicate tonality, and, as a rule, without using tongue, by special movements of your fingers you can change the tone of the sound, which creates a special *Shinobue* atmosphere.

### ***Tsugaru-shamisen***

*Tsugaru-shamisen* is one form of the plucked three-stringed traditional Japanese musical instrument, without which no national festival in Japan can be held. Depending on the thickness of the *shamisen* neck, it is divided into three types: hosozao (thin neck), chuzao (middle neck), futozao (fat neck). The sound of the *shamisen*, playing which requires special virtuosity, depends on the size of the instrument, the melody and the way it is performed. Initially, the *shamisen* was played at the gate of the house (for which the performers received rice or money), and also sang *Tsugaru* folk songs. Lately, *Tsugaru-shamisen* is especially popular and melodies played with European instruments are also prevalent, since most of the *Tsugaru-shamisen* songs are improvisations, and its sound is easily combined with other instruments.

### ***Wadaiko (Japanese drums)***

*Wadaiko* has a long history and in ancient times it was used during holidays in Japan. The body was made of wood, and then covered with the skin of the animal. In most cases, it was cow's skin that was used, but depending on the region, pig or horse's skin was used as well. The first application was closely connected with the rites, prayers to God, but over time the musical sound of the drum became popular and became widely used during various performances.

### ***Shishi-mai (Lion dance)***

Traditional dance - *Shishi-mai* can be seen in East Asia, especially in Japan and China. This dance is performed on various festivals, including the New Year, as a defense against harm and to ward off evil spirits. It is believed that if a lion bites your head off, then you will become a healthy person.

## The musical composition of the group "Densha"

### Katano Satoshi - he plays *Shinobue* (Bamboo flute)



He was born on November 5, 1982 in Savara, Chiba Prefecture. Due to the influence of his grandfather and father, who belonged to the group "Yokuragezaren", from the age of 9 began to play the *shinobue* (bamboo flute). After graduating from high school, he became a member of the traditional performance group "Yokuragezaren" and at the same time began to play various instruments such as guitar, bass and synthesizer, as well as became engaged in musical activities in a rock band. Since 2008,

he decided to start his own activities, performing a flute solo (*shinobue*). He received many awards at contests. He spoke at friendly events in Wisconsin, USA and in Düsseldorf, Germany. He released 2 albums.

### Yamanaka Yobuto – plays *Tsugaru-shamisen*

After graduating from school at the age of 15, he moved to the city of Hirosaki of Aomori prefecture and became a student of Chisato Yamada (performer of *Tsugaru-shamisen*). After four years of teaching, he became a master of Yamada-ryu (Yamada School). At the world tournament on *Tsugaru-shamisen*, which is being held every year in the city of Hirosaki of Aomori prefecture, he won the highest rank "A" for 3 years in a row and has achieved fame. He also became the winner of the accompaniment of folk songs 3 times in a row.



He performed abroad in 34 countries. He received the Global Saitama 2017 Award, which is awarded to individuals or organizations participating in Saitama Prefectural events. He received the "Honorable mention for his contribution to the culture of the city of Kitamoto 2018". Currently he is engaged in a solo career. He is a freelance teacher at the University of Music Senzoku Gakuen. Ambassador of Tourism of Kadzuo City. Goodwill Ambassador of Saitama.

### Kaiden Masanori – plays Wadaiko (Japanese drum and performs Shishi-mai (Lion dance)),

He is the leader of the music group "Densha", dance performer in the mask of a lion and a drummer who plays Wadaiko. He was engaged in teaching in kindergartens and was also a member of the theater club of folk performers. In 2010 he created the group "Danshya".



Activity: Television: Heisei Education Committee; "Saturday City" and others.

SM: "The Mystery and the Dragon", "Gentleman's Clothes of Akio" and others

Online: "T.M. Revolution Japan Budokan" and others;

In addition, he spoke during the events held at sights of cities and companies such as Tokyo Sky Tree, Haneda Airport, as well as in schools and at weddings. He held performances abroad in the Russian Federation, Korea and the Republic of Kyrgyzstan. In 2018, he spoke at the official events at the 21st FIFA World Cup in Russia. In 2017 he marked 20 years of his artistic career.

## **Programme**

- 1. Irodori boyasi (compositor: Yamanaka Yobuto)**
- 2. Soranbushi**
- 3. Khanagasa ondo**
- 4. Hachijojima Taiko**
- 5. Yatai bayasi**
- 6. Midare setsugekka (compositor: Katano Satoshi)**
- 7. Sento Niyori (compositor: Katano Satoshi)**
- 8. Sakura (arrangement: Yamanaka Nobuto)**
- 9. Khuurinkazan (compositor: Yamanaka Yobuto)**
- 10. Nankin tamasudare**
- 11. Shishi-mai**
- 12. Amazing Grace**
- 13. Country Roads**
- 14. Takio no soranbushi**
- 15. Nebuta bayasi**