

# 津軽三味線

# 山口ひろし



津軽三味線奏者である父 山口孝次の影響を受け、幼少期より 唄・太鼓・三味線を習う。

4歳で初舞台を踏み、10歳から津軽三味線奏者として本格的に舞台に立つ。

津軽三味線を青森県黒石市にて千葉勝弘氏に、南部三味線を奥南部民謡 夏坂菊男氏に師事。

その後、長唄三味線を東音 菊岡裕晃氏に師事。

長唄演奏会をはじめ、歌舞伎公演、日本舞踊公演等に出演。

東京藝術大学音楽学部を卒業、同大学院音楽研究科を修了。

津軽三味線奏者として、国内のみならず外務省他からの依頼により アジア・オセアニア・北米・ヨーロッパ等で公演。

企業・各種団体などでの演奏、テレビ・ラジオへの出演、また CD 制作や多数のレコーディングにも参加。

学生のための演奏授業やワークショップのほか、幅広い年代への教授、後進の育成にも力を注ぐ。邦楽の分野にとどまらず、様々なジャンルのアーティストとの共演も多く、豊かな音の響きやリズムをクリエイティブに表現している。

ソロコンサートも各地で開催し、楽しい語り口と共に津軽三味線本来の音色を力強く、繊細に伝えている。

## 主な受賞・出演歴

1990年から1996年 津軽三味線の大会で数々の賞を受賞

1991年 ニューヨーク リンカーンセンターでの「日本祭」に父 山口孝次と出演、ビクター少年民謡会に所属

1992年 「黒石よされ祭り」組踊り大会の伴奏にて最優秀賞受賞

1993年 日本大学総長より奨励賞を受賞、NHK 邦楽オーディションに最年少で合格

2000年 三笠宮崇仁親王殿下の日本舞踊の伴奏を務める

2001年 東京芸術大学 大学院 音楽研究科 修了

2003年 「江戸開府 400年」オープニングセレモニーに出演、フジテレビ「世界宇宙飛行士会議」に出演

2006年 成田空港第1ターミナルオープニングセレモニーに出演

2008年 中国河南省における「第10回アジア芸術祭」に出演

2014年 「日本スペイン国交 400周年記念」スペインツアー、在バンクーバー日本国総領事館創設125周年記念コンサートに出演

2016年 「日本シンガポール外交関係樹立 50周年記念」シンガポールツアー

2017年 「日本マレーシア外交関係樹立 60周年記念」マレーシアツアー

2018年 「日本南アフリカ外交関係樹立 100周年記念」南アフリカツアー、「日中平和友好条約締結 40周年記念公演」中国ツアー

津軽三味線・笛・和太鼓によるユニット「Shake Cha-z (シェイクチャーズ)」において国内外のツアー等に参加。

多様な文化や価値観の違いに柔軟に対応しながら自分らしい演奏をする一方で、津軽の情景と匂いが感じられる古典的な演奏を心掛けています。

また多くの師匠から受け継いだ技術や伝統と、現代社会における津軽三味線とを魅力的に結びつけ、伝えていきたいと日々探求し研鑽を積んでいる。

# Profile: Hiroshi Yamaguchi

## Tsugaru Shamisen (Tsugaru-Jamisen)

Hiroshi Yamaguchi began his musical studies since his childhood under the influence of his father Koji, Tsugaru Shamisen artist. At the age of four he made his first debut in front of the audience and at the age of ten he performed as an all-out Tsugaru Shamisen performer.

He studied Tsugaru Shamisen under the tutelage of Mr. Katsuhiko Chiba in Kuroishi City, Aomori Pref. and Nanbu Shamisen under Mr. Kikuo Natsusaka of Oku-Nanbu Minyo. After that he learned Nagauta Shamisen from Mr. Hiroaki Kikuoka of Touon.

He performed in various occasions such as Nagauta, Kabuki and Japanese Dance performances.

He graduated from the Music Department of Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music, and then completed the Graduate Course of the Department of Traditional Japanese Music.

As a Tsugaru Shamisen artist he has been performing not only in Japan but also in Asia, Oceania, North America and Europe in response to requests by Japanese Foreign Ministry and others.

He also has performed for various companies and institutions, TV and Radio programs, and participated in many CD productions and recordings.

He conducts performing class sessions and workshops for students, teaches how to play shamisen to people of widely ranging ages, and further makes efforts to foster younger musicians following the same path as his.

The genre of artists he gives a joint performance with is not limited to Japanese music and tends to be diverse.

He enjoys such opportunities and expresses rich and appealing sound and rhythm creatively.

He holds solo concerts as well in many places. He entertains audience with his witty talk and especially with signature sound of vibrant and sometimes delicate tone of Tsugaru Shamisen.

### Awards and Performances:

1990~1996 Received various awards and prizes in Tsugaru Shamisen contests.

1991 Performed in "Japan Festival" held at Lincoln Center (New York) together with his father, Koji.  
Joined Victor Boys and Girls' Association for Japanese Folk Songs.

1992 Received Best Performance Award for shamisen accompaniment for the Group Dance Contest in "Kuroishi Yosare Festival".

1993 Awarded Encouragement Prize from Japan University President.  
Passed the NHK Japanese Traditional Music Audition at the youngest age ever.

2000 Played an accompaniment to the Japanese Dance by His Imperial Highness Imperial Prince Mikasanomiya Takahito.

2001 Completed the Graduate Course of the Department of Traditional Japanese Music at Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music.

2003 Participated in the Opening Ceremony for the "400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment of Edo Shogunate Government".  
Participated in "The World Astronauts Conference" telecast by Fuji Television Network, Inc.

2006 Performed at the Opening Ceremony for the First Terminal of Narita Airport.

2008 Performed at the 10<sup>th</sup> Asian Art Festival held in Henan Province, China.

2014 Participated in Spain Tour commemorating the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Establishing the Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Spain.  
Performed in the concert commemorating the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Establishing the Japanese Consulate in Vancouver.

2016 Participated in Singapore Tour commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Establishing the Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Singapore.

2017 Participated in Malaysia Tour commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Establishing the Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Malaysia.

2018 Participated in South Africa Tour commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Establishing the Diplomatic Relations between Japan and South Africa.  
Participated in China Tour commemorating the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Concluding Japan-China Peace and Friendship Treaty.

He jointly formed a Unit called "Shake Cha-z" consisting of Tsugaru Shamisen, Japanese Flute and Japanese Drums and participates in various tours both in and out of Japan.

He responds flexibly to various cultural features and different values and, on his part, performs music in his unique style aiming always to convey the image of landscape of Tsugaru and its fragrance in a classical way of performance.

He also tries to unite, in an attractive way, the historically-inherited techniques and skills he learned from many teachers with the modern-day performing techniques of shamisen.

He keeps practicing daily to reach yet another higher stage in order to show such an exquisite form of art.

# 長唄、端唄、俗曲、日本舞踊(神楽面)

日本の民族音楽は、1000年以上の歴史があり、楽器、唄い方も幅広く、一言では説明できない。今日はその中から江戸時代の人気曲3曲と、日本舞踊1曲を演奏します。



## ① 元禄花見踊り 長唄より抜粋

日本では江戸時代に大衆娯楽が花開いた。その代表が、歌舞伎という芝居だ。演目は、膨大な数になるが、大きく3つに分けられる。歴史にテーマを求めた芝居、庶民の日常生活の場を題材とした芝居。そして踊りだ。

その芝居を支えるのが、長唄をはじめとする音楽隊だ。

その特徴は、いろいろある和楽器の中で、三味線音楽が中心になっている点だ。

元禄は今から320年前の江戸時代中期の元号です。当時江戸は空前の好景気に沸いており、町人の台頭、学問・の文化の興隆など清新な気風がみなぎった。元禄花見踊りは、そんな時代の花見風景を題材にした唄と踊りである。歌舞伎の中でも一番人気があるものの一つだ。今日は残念ながら、踊り抜き、唄も45分ある中からさわりの部分を、お聞きいただくものだ。

## ② 木遣りくずし 端唄

歌舞伎以外にも江戸の庶民は、いろいろな形で音楽と唄を楽しんだ。

その一つが、端唄と言われる音楽でこれも三味線を伴奏にうたわれた。

「木遣りくずし」「木遣り」とは重い木材などを、音頭を取り掛け声をかけながら、送り運ぶ時に唄う歌。「くずし」とは本来の調子を変えて唄うこと。

## ③ お江戸日本橋 俗曲

幕末から明治にかけて流行した俗曲。 東海道五十三次の宿場を読み込んだ歌。

俗曲とは、三味線などに合わせて唄う通俗的唄。

## ④ 日本舞踊「神楽面」 寺田薫

「神楽」とは、宮中の神事で行われる舞楽及び民間の神社に昔から伝わる舞(マイ)の劇「神楽面」とはそこで使われるお面で、いろいろある。

今日踊るのは、後者で、おかめ、ひょっとこ、げどう、と言う、日本の代表的な男と女、善と悪を極端に表現した面を使ったもの。踊り方の変化をみてほしい。



# Nagauta, Hauta, Zokkyoku & Japanese Dance

Japanese Ethnic Music has more than a thousand-year history and it is difficult to explain in a short paragraph as there are a wide variety of music instruments and singing methods. Today we are performing three pieces of popular music of Edo Period and a Japanese Dance Music as well.

## 1. Genroku Hanami Odori      selected part

In Japan various kinds of popular entertainment blossomed in Edo Period. The most typical among them is performance art, Kabuki. There are quite a lot of programs and they can be divided into three major groups: programs based on historical themes, programs based on daily lives of ordinary people, and dance performing programs. These programs are supported by the music teams such as Nagauta. Their most conspicuous feature is that Shamisen especially among various Japanese music instruments is the center of the music.

Genroku is the name of one particular era (about 320 years ago) of the middle part of Edo Period. In those days people were enjoying an unprecedentedly brisk economy. Townspeople came to appear on the scene, and advancement of study and culture was seen. People enjoyed life full of vitality. “Genroku Hanami Odori” is a song and dance performance depicting cherry-blossom viewing in those days. This program is one of the most popular programs of Kabuki. Unfortunately we cannot show its dance part today. As for the song part, the whole song lasts 45 minutes, so we will perform just the signature tune.

## 2. Kiyarikuzushi      Hauta

People of Edo enjoyed music and songs also in forms other than Kabuki. One of them is a type of music called “Hauta” which also was sung accompanied by Shamisen. “Kiyari” is a song which is sung to give a signal for a synchronized move when people are working together to carry heavy things (e.g. logs) forward by hand. “Kuzushi” means singing a song not in an ordinary fashion.

## 3. Oedo Nihon-bashi      Zokkyoku

A popular song which was sung from the end of Edo Period to the following Meiji Era. This particular song conveys images of the 53 post towns on Tokaido highway between Edo and Kyoto. Zokkyokou means popular songs sung to the accompaniment of Shamisen, etc.

## 4. Japanese Dance “Kaguramen”      Dance performance: Kaoru Terada

“Kagura” means dance and music performance in the religious ceremony of Shinto conducted in the imperial palace and historically-inherited dance dramas performed in civilian shrines. “Kaguramen” means a mask used in such dance performances and there are many kinds of them. Today’s dance features the latter of the dance performances mentioned above, and masks used are called “Okame”, “Hyottoko”, and “Gedou”. They represent traditionally typical Japanese man and woman; good and evil are expressed in an extremity. Please watch how they change the way they dance.

