

FOR IMMEDIATE  
RELEASE

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CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS  
MUSIC FROM JAPAN'S REIGAKUSHA, PERFORMING  
*REIGAKU AND GAGAKU: A LIVING TRADITION*  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 AT 3:00 P.M. IN HERTZ HALL

PROGRAM BY ACCLAIMED *GAGAKU* ORCHESTRA FEATURES IMPERIAL COURT MUSIC AND  
NEWLY-COMMISSIONED WORKS FOR ANCIENT INSTRUMENTS

**SIGHTLINES**: a pre-concert lecture/demonstration entitled "Shōsō-in Treasures:  
Reconstructing Musical Instruments," by Professor Toshiro Kido of Kyoto University of  
Art and Design, with members of Reigakusha

BERKELEY, August 9, 2004 – Music From Japan, the leading presenter of Japanese traditional and contemporary music in the United States, celebrates its 30th anniversary with the concert *Reigaku and Gagaku: A Living Tradition*, featuring **Reigakusha**, Japan's premiere *gagaku* orchestra **September 12 at 3:00 p.m.** in Hertz Hall. The ensemble will perform works from the *gagaku* ("elegant music") repertoire, a 1200-year-old musical tradition of the Japanese Imperial Court, as well as *reigaku* compositions, contemporary pieces written for ancient instruments. The program features three West Coast premieres: *Irihi no raku* by **Keiko Fujiie** and *The Trees: Echoes from the Past* by **Kazuo Kikkawa**, both commissioned by Music From Japan; and the reconstructed *Sōrōkodatsu* by Reigakusha founding Music Director **Sukeyasu Shiba**. Donning traditional costumes and performing on replicas of centuries-old instruments such as the *ryuteki* (bamboo flute), *sho* (mouth organ and ancestor of the harmonica), *hichiriki* (double-reed pipe), *koto* (zither) and *biwa* (lute), the 18 musicians create a concert experience both "beautiful to look at and transporting to hear," writes *The Boston Globe*. A free **Sightlines** lecture/demonstration titled "Shōsō-in Treasures: Reconstructing Musical Instruments," with **Toshiro Kido** and members of Reigakusha precedes the concert on Sunday, September 12 at 1:00 p.m.

**REIGAKUSHA**

Established in 1985 by distinguished musician and composer Sukeyasu Shiba, **Reigakusha** is a group of professional *gagaku* instrumentalists dedicated to the study and

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performance of the classical *gagaku* repertoire and the creation of new music composed for ancient instruments, a genre referred to as *reigaku*. The ensemble includes 22 permanent members (all play multiple instruments and some dance as well), with a number of distinguished guest artists who perform regularly with the group. Reigakusha's repertoire contains more than 60 classical *gagaku* works, 30 new works in the classic tradition, 20 works reconstructed by Shiba, and several new works by contemporary composers such as Toru Takemitsu, Toshi Ichiyanagi, and Maki Ishii.

During the past decade, Reigakusha has appeared regularly in major halls throughout Japan. In October 1995 the group presented a special outdoor performance of Takemitsu's *In an Autumn Garden* at Meiji Shrine in Tokyo. Reigakusha was invited to Seattle, Tanglewood and the first Lincoln Center Festival in New York in July 1996. The ensemble toured Britain in 1998, appearing in Glasgow, Birmingham, Cambridge and at London's Queen Elizabeth Hall. Other international appearances include Brussels, Cologne, Berlin and Oslo in 2000, and in 2002 the Klangspuren festival in Innsbruck and the Transart festival in Bolzano, Italy. Returning to the United States after an eight-year absence, Reigakusha's concert at Cal Performances is the only West Coast engagement in its 2004 three-city tour that includes Carnegie Hall in New York City and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

### SUKEYASU SHIBA

Reigakusha Music Director **Sukeyasu Shiba** was born in 1935 into the Shiba family, a branch of the Koma clan of *gagaku* musicians that has been associated with the temple-shrine complex of Kofuku-ji/Kasuga Taisha in Nara, Japan for more than a thousand years. For much of his 27-year tenure at the Imperial Household *gagaku* orchestra, Shiba was lead *ryuteki* player, while also specializing in other transverse bamboo flutes, the *biwa* lute and *bugaku* dance. After retiring from his post in 1984, Shiba founded Reigakusha, comprised almost entirely of musicians whom he taught during his extensive career. In addition to performing, Shiba has devoted his energies to reconstructing and renotating works from ancient manuscripts that had disappeared from the classical repertoire. As a renowned *ryuteki* performer, Shiba has been invited to numerous international music festivals as the Festival d'Automne in Paris, the Vienna Modern, and the Ultima Festival in Oslo. The Ministry of Education of Japan has designated

him a Leading Artist of Traditional Japanese Music, and he was awarded the Idemitsu Music Award in 1997. In 2003, Shiba received the Japan Art Academy Prize as well as the Imperial Award from the same institution.

### **KAZUO KIKKAWA**

**Kazuo Kikkawa**, a Professor at the Miyagi University of Education, was born in 1954 in Nagoya and received a postgraduate degree from Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music. Kikkawa is a member of the Japan Federation of Composers and has written numerous works for traditional Japanese instruments as well as music for radio dramas. His music for the 1996 NHK-FM radio drama *Sophie's World* won the Hoso-Bunka Foundation Award. *The Trees: Echoes from the Past*, one of the works on the Cal Performances program, was commissioned by Music From Japan in celebration of its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### **KEIKO FUJIE**

**Keiko Fujiie** received a postgraduate degree from Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music and has twice won the coveted Otaka Prize. Fujiie received the Kenzo Nakajima Award in 1996 and support from the Asian Cultural Council resulted in a residency in New York for several months in 1992/93. She was born in 1963 in Kyoto and has written works for dance companies and orchestras, and is well known for her works composed for guitarist Kazuhito Yamashita. *Irihi no raku*, one of the works on the Cal Performances program, was commissioned by Music From Japan in celebration of its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### **TOSHIRO KIDO**

**Toshiro Kido**, former Director of the National Theatre of Japan, spearheaded a project beginning in the 1970s to reconstruct models of rare and forgotten instruments from the magnificent Shōsō-in Collection housed at Todai-ji, a monastery temple in Nara, Japan. Many of the ancient instruments, having traveled to Japan in the eighth century from across Asia and as far away as Persia, were severely deteriorated by time or existed only in fragment forms when Kido began the reconstruction project. Many of the instruments did not survive in their countries of origin. While at the National Theatre, Kido also commissioned well-known international composers to create new repertoire for both traditional *gagaku* instruments and the modern

replicas of the Shōsō-in instruments. Kido's work led to the emergence of a new genre of music known as *reigaku*. Currently Kido is a professor at the Kyoto University of Art and Design.

### **MUSIC FROM JAPAN**

**Music From Japan** has enriched the cultural lives of thousands of Americans for nearly 30 years by bringing Japanese performers, composers and educational programs to the United States. Since 1975, founding Artistic Director Naoyuki Miura has been responsible for presenting nearly 400 works by Japanese composers, including 37 commissions by the organization and 49 world premieres. During the last quarter-century, the organization has presented concerts throughout North and South America, Central Asia and Japan. More than 100 Japanese composers have been showcased, as well as many traditional Japanese pieces. In 1994 Music From Japan established the Resource Center for Japanese Music, located in New York City. The Center includes the Japanese Composer Database, which provides information to people from all over the world on Japanese composers and their music. Music From Japan was honored for its efforts when Miura was awarded the Japan Foundation Special Prize in October 2001. The 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season is presented in association with The Japan Federation of Composers.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for **Reigakusha's** program *Reigaku and Gagaku: A Living Tradition*, on **Sunday, September 12 at 3:00 p.m.** in Hertz Hall are priced at **\$28.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu); and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens and other students receive a \$2 discount, and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$3 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988, or visit the Cal Performances web site at [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu).

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**CALENDAR EDITORS, PLEASE NOTE:**

**Sunday, September 12 at 1:00 p.m.**  
**SIGHTLINES**

**Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**  
Bancroft Way at College, Berkeley

Pre-concert lecture/demonstration by **Toshiro Kido**, entitled "Shōsō-in Treasures: Reconstructing Musical Instruments," with members of **Reigakusha**. These events are free to ticketholders.

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**Sunday, September 12 at 3:00 p.m.**

**Hertz Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**  
Bancroft Way at College, Berkeley

*World Stage*  
**Reigakusha**  
***Reigaku and Gagaku: A Living Tradition***

**Program:**

The Essence of Classic *Gagaku*: Legacy of a Thousand Years

*Kangen* (instrumental): "Hyōjō no netori," "Etenraku," and "Bairo"

*Bugaku* (dance with winds and percussion): *Genjōraku*

Reconstructed Instruments from the Shōsō-in Collection

Shiba Sukeyasu/*Sorokodatsu* (reconstructed) (West Coast premiere)

Contemporary Work

Keiko Fujiie/*Irihi no raku* (West Coast premiere)

Kazuo Kikkawa/*The Trees: Echoes from the Past* (West Coast premiere)

**Tickets: \$28.00**, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperfs.berkeley.edu](http://www.calperfs.berkeley.edu); and at the door.

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