



Oregon Koto-Kai Presents
早春 So-Shun (Early Spring) Koto Concert



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Immerse yourself in Japanese Fine arts by enjoying authentic koto music while observing a beautiful ikebana demonstration!

On Sunday, March 3rd Oregon Koto-Kai (Japanese Koto Music Society of Oregon) will present a special concert at Lincoln Recital Hall (Room 75). Oregon Koto-Kai was founded by Tokyo-born Koto virtuoso, Mitsuki Dazai. Under Dazai's tutelage, each player has learned the time-honored traditions of the koto performance in addition to the most advanced contemporary techniques. Besides performing at numerous cultural festivals throughout the state, Oregon Koto-Kai hosts concerts each season, the So-Shun (Early Spring) Koto Concert, the Summer Concert, the Annual Concert in the Fall, and the Holiday Concert.

The Koto is one of the most famous of all the traditional Japanese musical instruments. Originating in China, these 13-string zithers first appeared in Japan in the 7th Century, and were used in ancient ensemble music called Gagaku. Later in the Edo period (1600 - 1867), this instrument had been greatly enhanced by gifted blind musicians. In its long history, the unique sounds of this instrument, with its simplicity and complexity, have been weaving numerous forms of beautiful music.

In the So-Shun Concert, Oregon Koto-Kai will mainly present authentic koto music with a classical style. The audience will also enjoy seeing players in their beautiful kimono costumes. The theme of this year's the concert is 雪月風花 (Setsu Getsu Fu Ka) (Snow, Moon, Wind, Flower). This four-character idiom describes the beauty of nature. The ensemble group will perform pieces related to the theme of the program such as "Sakura Hensoukyoku (Cherry Blossom Variation)" composed by Michio Miyagi, "Hana Ikada (Flower Raft)" which will be played by our lovely junior members, and "Sekkei Sansho (Snowscape Suite)" which will be performed by seven of our koto players. We will also present a traditional piece "Yuugao (Moonflower)" for koto, shamisen (three string lute) and voice.

The guest artist, Nana Bellerud, will collaborate the koto performance with her Ikebana (Japanese flower arrangement) demonstration.

Come and experience this timeless journey of Japanese music and culture.

When: Sunday, March 3rd 2:30 PM (doors open at 2 PM)
Where: Lincoln Recital Hall (Room 75), Portland State University
1620 SW Park Ave. Portland, OR 97201
Tickets: \$25 (\$18 in advance)
Online tickets available. Visit oregonkoto kai.org
Information: info@oregonkoto kai.org or (541) 513-6417

Players: Nobuko Chalfen, Midori Carrollo, Emiko Fukuchi, Eiko Kondo, Nene Kondo, Kayo Kondo-Cox, Eri Muroi, Kazumi Muroi, Haruka Sakiyama, Miyuki Sakiyama, Rena Takahashi, Mitsuki Dazai