

Welcome Ceremony

Attraction

Shakuhachi (bamboo flute) & Koto & Guitar Session

Program

Haru no Umi (Spring Sea)

Folk Medley (Itsuki no Komori Uta, Kojo no Tsuki, Sakura)

Blue Bamboo

Summertime

Take Five

Performer profile

JOHN KAIZAN NEPTUNE < <http://www.pacificsites.com/~jneptune/> >

John Kaizan Neptune brings to the shakuhachi (bamboo flute) a new and dynamic sound and feeling entirely his own. A California-born American, Neptune received his master's certificate in the Tozan School of Shakuhachi in 1977, at which time he was awarded the name "Kaizan" ("Sea Mountain"). He is the author of the book SHAKUHACHI, and has performed and recorded in many countries around the world. His second album, BAMBOO, was named Outstanding Record of the Year by the Cultural Affairs Agency of the Japanese Ministry of Education; subsequent albums (23 to date) and his concerts throughout Japan, Asia, Australia, America, and Europe have made his original music, from traditional Japanese to contemporary jazz, widely know and loved by people of all ages. Neptune, who is acknowledged to be among the top masters of the instrument in Japan, now lives in Kamogawa, Chiba-ken, where he continues to make, write for and experiment with the instrument he had adopted as his own.

SAWAKO FUKUHARA

Sawako Fukuhara is one of the most gifted koto players in Japan. Beginning koto study in her early childhood with her aunt, Mitsuyo Mizushima, Fukuhara was trained as a classical koto player until completion of the special course for traditional Japanese musicians sponsored by NHK (Japanese Public Broadcasting).

She is well know for her exquisite balance of traditional and contemporary music, which can be attributed to a wide variety of activities from performing recitals, secret pieces of the Kyoto-Udesaki School, and well as numerous overseas performances, starting with the 1984 International Youth Music Festival in Australia.

She has received many awards including the Kyoto Cultural Promotion award in 2005 and the prestigious Special "New-Comer" Cultural Award presented by the Japanese Ministry of Education in 2007.

Fukuhara has done many recording, including AYATORI with violin, PRISM with cello and shakuhachi (Neptune), and her first solo recording, NAGAREGUMO.

TAKAO NAOI

Guitarist, arranger, composer, producer Takao Naoi was born in Tokyo. He began his professional music career in 1968, and in 1970 attended the Manhattan School of Music in New York, where he also was "studying" at many of the different jazz clubs. After returning to Japan he became active not only in jazz and popular music performance, but in composing and arranging as well. He has traveled to many countries around the world and his credits include recordings for all the major record companies of Japan. Composing and arranging for many of Japan's top vocalists, Naoi is also in demand for radio, TV and commercial work. His recordings with Neptune include: Shogun, Two In Flight, Jazzen, Sky Spirit, Shakuhachi Mellow Jazz, Steps in Time, and Bamboo Magic.