

平家琵琶

Heikyoku

An 800-year-old Tradition

“Telling the Tale of the Heike, Playing the Biwa”

The Tale of the Heike

Performed by **Tsutomu Arai**

September 24, 7:30 PM

Katzin Concert Hall

Music Building West (First Floor)

Arizona State University

Free Admission and Open to the Public



Program

7:30 pm

Opening Remarks, Claudia Brown, School of Art

Welcome, ASU Senior Vice-President Christine Wilkinson

Introduction, Miko Foard, Emeritus College

7:45 pm

Greeting and Heikyoku Performance, Tsutomu Arao

8:45 pm

Question and Answer Session

9:15 pm

Close Viewing of the *Biwa* by the Audience

9:45 pm

Conclusion

Tonight's Musical Numbers

Gion Shōja – The Jetavana Temple Bell

The famous lament that begins the tale of the downfall of the Heike (the House of Taira), whose dominance over Japan is challenged by the Genji (the Minamoto Clan).

Giō

The story of Giō, a court dancer beloved by Lord Kiyomori of the Heike, who suddenly finds herself supplanted by a reluctant rival.

Nasu no Yoichi

At the battle of Yashima, the archer Nasu no Yoichi is chosen by the great Genji general, Yoshitsune, to respond to a seemingly impossible challenge by the Heike.

Noto Dono Saigo—The Death of Noritsune

The heroic last stand at Dan-no-Ura of the Heike warrior, Noritsune, who takes two opponents with him into the sea.

Sentei Gojusui—The Drowning of Emperor Antoku

Faced with the utter defeat of the Heike at Dan-no-Ura, Lady Nii, wife of the late Lord Kiyomori, leaps into the ocean with her grandson, the six-year-old Antoku.



Tsutomu Arao (荒尾 努) plays the biwa (a lute that originated in Persia or Central Asia, much like the Chinese *pipa*) while singing *The Tale of the Heike*. He has established his own school of this centuries-old performance, called Heikyoku, and is also a special lecturer at Keio University, one of the oldest and most prestigious private universities in Tokyo. By the end of 2016, he had performed Heikyoku more than 900 times in concert halls, museums, universities, and religious institutions and has also appeared in or provided the music for numerous films and TV shows. His most recent performance outside of Japan was at the Tchaikovsky State Conservatory in 2016, when he was one of the invitees from many countries around the world. This is his first performance in the United States.

This event has been organized by ASU's Center for Asian Research, and supported by several other units at ASU, U of A, and NAU, one not-for-profit organization, and individual donors. Our sincere thanks go to all the organizations, donors, and students who helped and inspired us throughout our preparation process.

Sponsors

**Emeritus College
Office of Sr Vice-President Christine Wilkinson
Center for Asian Research
ASU Art Museum
ASU Library
School of Historical, Philosophical
and Religious Studies
School of Music
Barrett, The Honors College
Art History Faculty of the School of Art
Department of East Asian Studies,
University of Arizona
Asian Studies Program,
Northern Arizona University
Japanese Culture Club of Arizona**

Individual Donors

**Peter Banko
James Foard
Myrna Harrison
Mardelle and Leonard Mikus
Gail Rineberg
Waynor and Laurie Rogers
Richard Stevenson
Anne and Steve Thomas
Bill and Mary Way
Iris Cashdan-Fishman
Linda and Stan Albert**



Katsushika Hokusai, *The Appearance of the Vengeful Ghosts of the Heike*, 1847-50, ASU Art Museum, Gift of Drs. Thomas and Martha Carter

Additional Performances:

Sept. 25, Taliesin West, Scottsdale, 7 pm
Sept. 26, U of A, Tucson, Holsclaw Hall, 7 pm
Sept. 27, NAU, Flagstaff, Liberal Arts 120, 4:30 pm