

Chouei Sato (佐藤朝栄) is a renowned artist of Northern Japanese Folk Music both as a *shamisen* player and vocalist. Sato made his debut on the 1984 album, *Kitakuni wo Utau*. In 1993, Sato received the stage-name "Chouei" from his teacher, Sato Kouei, establishing his place in the lineage of the great *shamisen* master Kida Rinshoei. Sato has received numerous awards for his live performances, including the 1989 competition at the Tokyo Budokan, and the 2006 Tsugaru Jamisen National Competition. Additionally, Sato has appeared as an accompanist for vocalists on countless recordings and on television performances, and he has recently released a new album of his solo work and group arrangements for *shamisen*, "*Tamashii no Hibiki*" (2006). Currently, along with teaching private lessons, Sato leads two *shamisen* groups, the "Towa Sangenkai" and the "Choueikai." He performs regularly with these groups and as a soloist, and has recently made appearances on TV Iwate and the Japanese Public Broadcasting Station NHK.

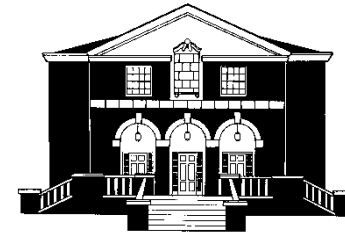
Chieko Shirogane (白銀千栄子) has been studying the *shamisen* with Mr. Sato since 2001 and dance with Ms. Kanoko Tanaka since 2009. Now she performs both dance and *shamisen* with Mr. Sato in festivals and events across the Tohoku area. Last year, Chieko lost her family home in the March 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. This evening, through her performance, she hopes to express her thanks to the American people for all their support to Japan throughout this crisis.

Simon Hutchinson is a PhD student in Composition and Music Technology at the University of Oregon. He began studying the *shamisen* in 2002, while working as an International Specialist for a small township in Iwate Prefecture. Now, while pursuing his PhD in the US, Simon returns to Japan every summer to continue his studies with Mr. Sato.

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112th Season, 35th program



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND DANCE

Beall Concert Hall
8:00 p.m.

Saturday evening
February 18, 2012

THE WORLD MUSIC SERIES

presents

**FOLK MUSIC AND DANCE
OF NORTHERN JAPAN**

featuring

CHOUEI SATO, *Shamisen*
CHIEKO SHIROGANE, *Shamisen*
SIMON HUTCHINSON, *Shamisen*

PROGRAM

Akita Nikata Bushi (Akita Prefecture)

秋田荷方節 (秋田県)

Hanagasa Ondo (Yamagata Prefecture)

花笠音頭 (山形県)

Nanbu Yoshare Bushi (Iwate Prefecture)

南部よしゃれ節 (岩手県)

Nanbu Tawara Tsumi Uta (Iwate Prefecture)

南部俵積み唄 (岩手県)

Senboku Nikata Bushi (Akita Prefecture)

仙北荷方節 (秋田県)

Sotoyama Bushi (Iwate Prefecture)

外山節 (岩手県)

Tosa no Sunayama (Aomori Prefecture)

十三の砂山 (青森県)

Tsugaru Aiya Bushi (Aomori Prefecture)

津軽あいや節 (青森県)

Tsugaru Jinku (Aomori Prefecture)

津軽甚句 (青森県)

Tsugaru Jonkara Bushi (Aomori Prefecture)

津軽じょんから節 (青森県)

Tsugaru Ringo Bushi (Aomori Prefecture)

津軽リンゴ節 (青森県)

Tsugaru Tanto Bushi (Aomori Prefecture)

津軽タント節 (青森県)

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PROGRAM NOTES

Tonight's performance will consist of several Japanese *min'yo* (民謡), or folk songs, from the *Tohoku* (Northeast) area of Japan. *Min'yo* are regionally distinct and often the lyrics contain proclamations of the beauty of the local landscape. As seen in the list of pieces above, most of the songs' titles are prefaced with the name of a geographical area, such as the Northwestern Tsugaru Peninsula in Aomori, or the Nanbu area, modern-day Iwate Prefecture.

Min'yo are often accompanied by *taiko*, *shakuhachi*, or *shamisen*. The sub-genre of *Tsugaru Jamisen* (津軽三味線) music, a rhythmic, virtuosic style of solo *shamisen* playing, emerged from the *shamisen* accompaniments of Aomori *min'yo*. While this genre first appeared in the late 19th century, it has experienced a boom in popularity since the mid-20th century, as a style that has the rhythmic appeal of modern popular music, but remains a distinctly Japanese tradition.