

## self-introduction

# Atsushi Ueda

Nohgaku small drum"Kotsudumi" player

New Nohgaku script writer

"Dengakusha" Co., Ltd.CEO



# Origin of company name

The roots of Nohgaku are "Sarugaku" and "Dengaku".

"Sarugaku" is an ancient Japanese performing art.

"Dengaku" is a performing art that prays for a good harvest.

These fusions led to the creation of Nohgaku.

What is "Dengakusha"?

Connecting "agriculture" and "traditional performing arts".

It also means a company that spreads the joy of Nohgaku.



# What is Nohgaku?

Nohgaku is the oldest Japanese performing art.

It was also registered as the first UNESCO World Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Nohgaku has the longest history in the world.

And it is a performing art with high artistry and spirituality.

The photo shows the performance "Okina" at the Vatican→



#### **The Instruments**

#### Listen to the music!

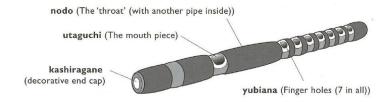
Close your eyes and listen.

The unique world created through the sounds of Japanese instruments spreads across the theatre and between the special zones of stillness and action on stage, serving an important role to heighten the tension and enhance the atmosphere. The 'Gonin-bayashi' (five court musicians) in the song of the Hina-Matsuri (Girl's Day) uses precisely the sounds of these four instruments and chanting.

#### Fue (flute)

The fue used in Noh is a transverse flute called Nö-kan and is made from bamboo.

No-kan is the only instrument in Noh that plays melodies in dances called mai, such as Jo-no mai and Chū-no mai, synchronizing with the beat rhythm. The flutes used in Noh each differ slightly from one another in length and size, with individual timbre.



#### Ko-tsuzumi (shoulder-drum)

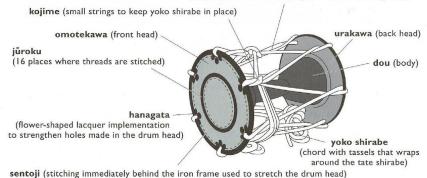
This is sometimes called simply tsuzumi (drum)

There are two basic tones: the high-pitched kan and the low and soft otsu, which can both produce loud and soft sounds, and depending on the way the drum is struck, four sounds 'chi, ta, pu and po' can also be produced.

For the performance the player breathes onto the drum skin to control the moisture and adjusts the tension of the heads, while small pieces of Japanese paper are moistened and stuck on the back drumhead to fine tune the tone.

#### tate shirabe

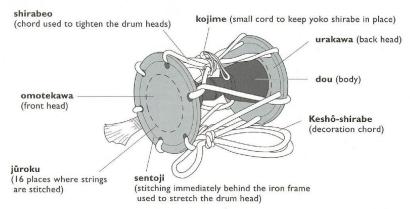
(long chord with tassels tying the drum heads together)



#### Ō-tsuzumi

Ö-tsuzumi is also called ökawa.

Before each performance the drum heads which have been dried over charcoal heat for I to 2 hours is placed over the body of the drum and stretched taut with shirabeo chords. Doing so will ensure a unique strong and resonating high-pitched sound (expressed as 'kaan' in Japanese) different from the soft sound made with the kotsuzumi. The sounds are expressed by strong and weak, and resounding beats ('don-chon' in Japanese).



#### Taiko

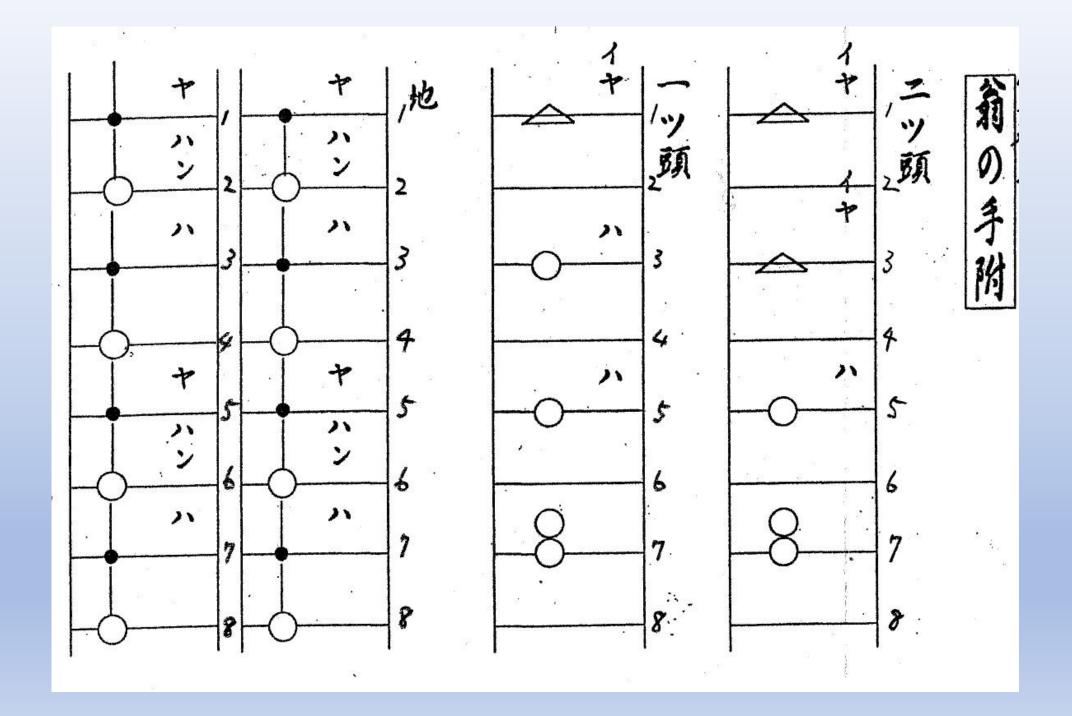
While horse hide is used in the other percussion instruments, cow hide is used for the Taiko. There are two sounds made by the Taiko, the 'non-

Hayashi Kata musicians during performance From right: fue, ko-tsuzumi, ō-tsuzumi and taiko. resonating sound' ('tsuku-tsuku' in Japanese) and the 'resonating sound' ('ten-ten' in Japanese).



bachikawa (the area of contact with the head)





# New creations for modern Nohgaku.

Original Noh Kyogen by Atsushi Ueda.

Kyogen is a comedy within Nohgaku.

I focus on the history, culture, and great people loved by local people.

And I will focus on modern events.

A new script written over the past 4 years.

- New Noh performances "Naomasa", "Kamiike", "Yatsukodayu",
- "Mitsuhide", "Ten no Kawa", "Murashige", "Kiyohimebuchi"
- New children's Kyogen "Chi-tan and Tamba dragon" "Kumagusu and Slime Mold" "Sandarino"

And "Amabie" to pray for the elimination of the new coronavirus



#### First Performance

New Noh performances"Naomasa",

New children's Kyogen "Chi-tan



## November 29, 2019 Kasuga Culture Hall Tamba City







## 2nd performance

- New Noh performances"Yatsukodayu"
- the elimination of the new coronavirus"Amabie"



## November 20, 2021

## Kasuga Culture Hall Tamba City









## 3rd performance

- Kyogen "Sanbaso"
- Kyogen "Kakiyamabushi"
- New children's Kyogen "Chi-tan and Tamba Dragon"















I won the "Fukuchiyama Castle Challenge", a project held by Fukuchiyama City (1st place out of 34 groups)

March 8, 2021

New Noh "Mitsuhide" and Armored Warrior in Fukuchiyama



### 4th Performance

# August 27, 2021 Fukuchiyama Kosei Hall Large Hall

New Noh "Mitsuhide" and Armored Warrior in Fukuchiyama















### 5th Performance

## November 3, 2021 Hyozu Shrine Tanba City

The most famous historical novelist, Ryotaro Shiba, wrote a novel about the legend of Naomasa Akai and his magical sword bag. I created it as a new Noh script!





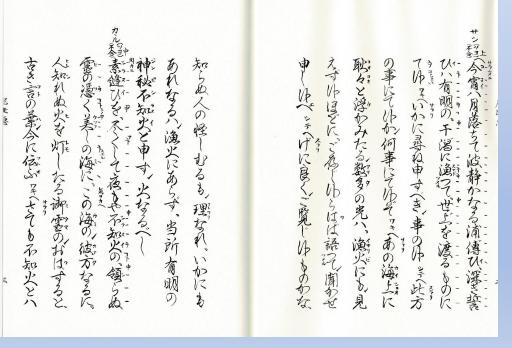


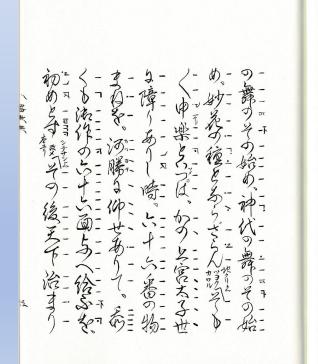


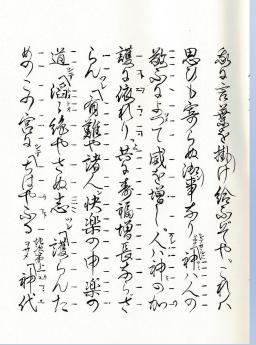


We will leave the scripts of traditional performing arts for future generations with new themes,

We will create a historical culture that we can be proud of around the world.







# This activity has been featured in many medias.







文化芸術は"豊かな心"と"創造性"を育みます