

Intro to World Music

- *sankyoku* ensemble: important chamber music ensemble
- The *Shamisen*
 - fretless, 3-string lute
 - usually plucked with a *bachi*
 - important in a number of ensembles/genres
 - Repertoire
 - *katarimono* - narrative songs
 - *kabuki* theatre
 - *bunraku* - puppet theatre
 - solo works may be pulsatile and rhythmically active, exhibiting virtuosity
- The *Shakuhachi*
 - bamboo flute
 - originally used as a meditative aid in Zen Buddhism called *suizen* ("blowing zen")
 - skilled performers can create a wide variety of musical sounds and gestures
 - Repertoire
 - *honkyoku* - traditional monastic music
 - *sankyoku* - ensemble w/ koto and shamisen
 - *shinkyoku* - contemporary music for the shakuhachi
 - Example: *Daiwa gaku*
 - *shinkyoku* piece written in 1941 by Jin Nyodo
 - homage to meditative *suizen* style found in *honkyoku*
 - represents life cycles: family, time, aging, etc.
- The *Koto*
 - 13-string zither
 - technique:
 - right hand plucks with finger picks
 - left hand bends strings
 - household instrument
 - Repertoire
 - *kumiuta* - a cycle of songs for female voice with koto accompaniment
 - instrumental solo works featuring
 - a slow, but steady beat unifying use of *motive* (melodic snippet)
 - sections of identical duration called *dan*
 - Example: *Rokudan no shirabe*