

Season Pass Now Available

Enjoy a discount on Department of Music Spring 2011 performances with the **Music Flex Pass**. Receive admission to all music events for just \$100/adult, and \$75/CSU students. With several dozen performances this fall, the pass provides tremendous savings over buying individual tickets. Contact the UCA Ticket Office at 970-491-2787 or in person at the window in the Griffin Lobby.

Upcoming Events at the University Center for the Arts

Thursday, February 24—**Music: Jazz Ensembles Modern Music Concert**
7:30 p.m., Griffin Concert Hall

Monday, February 28—**Music: Virtuoso Series Concert**
The Aries Trio
7:30 p.m., Organ Recital Hall

Thursday, March 3—**Creative Writing Reading Series**
4 X 4 Reading
7:30 p.m., University Art Museum

Friday, March 4—**Music: Virtuoso Series Concert Michelle Stanley, Flute**
12:00 p.m., Organ Recital Hall

Sunday, March 6—**Music: Virtuoso Series Concert**
The Mendelssohn Trio
7:30 p.m., Organ Recital Hall

Monday, March 7—**Music: Virtuoso Series Concert Guest Michelle DeBruyn, Soprano**
7:30 p.m., Organ Recital Hall

FREE Student Recitals

See www.CSUSchooloftheArts.com for Student Recital Schedule

Colorado State University
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

event calendar • e-newsletter registration
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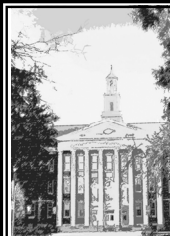
Tickets: (970) 491-ARTS (2787)
www.CSUArtsTickets.com

Information: (970) 491-5529

Meet Me at the UCA
Season "Green" Sponsor



Thank you for your continued support



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
MEET ME AT THE UCA
SPRING 2011 CONCERT SEASON

Virtuoso Series Concert *Tsugaru Shamisen* *Performed by* *Monsters of Shamisen*



Tuesday, February 22, 2011, 7:30 p.m.
Organ Recital Hall, University Center for the Arts

Sponsored by the Consulate-General of Japan, and the Japan Foundation
with

Colorado State University
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Program

Tsugaru Min'yo (folk music)

These are some of the most commonly heard and performed traditional folk songs of northern Japan, and are considered staples of the Tsugaru shamisen repertoire.

Ichi Dan/Jongara Bushi Battle
 Ringo Bushi
 Aiya Bushi
 San Sagari—Mike Penny, solo shamisen
 Yosare Bushi—Kevin Kmetz, solo shamisen
 Yasaburo Bushi
 Akita Nikata Bushi
 San Dan/Jongara Bushi Improvisation/Kita no Hibiki

Western Classical Music Arranged for Tsugaru Shamisen

Until very recently, the shamisen had never been used to play polyphonic music (music which involves harmony). We would like to demonstrate the polyphonic capabilities of our instrument with these pieces of well-known Western Classical music that we've arranged for Tsugaru shamisen.

Invention #1	J.S. Bach
Hungarian Dance No. 5	Brahms
Prelude in G	J.S. Bach
	Kevin Kmetz, solo shamisen
Prelude in C	J.S. Bach
	Mike Penny, solo shamisen

Music from Around the World

With these pieces from all over the world, we aim to demonstrate the versatility of the shamisen.

Pipeline	The Ventures
Black Dog	Led Zeppelin
Theme Song Medley	Japan/America
Etude/Mekapsis Yitonisa	Greece
You Don't Remember, I'll Never Forget	Joe Satriani
Star of the County Down	Ireland
Arkansas Traveler	America

Friends of the UCA is an initiative launched by the Department of

Music, Theatre and Dance to sustain and enhance the quality of education and the performing arts at Colorado State University. Funds are used to bring quality performances to the community and are also used for student international travel opportunities, scholarships, and the placement of high-quality instruments in every practice room and venue in the University Center for the Arts.

Friends of the UCA members not only receive the recognition they deserve, but they gain unprecedented access to the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance at CSU.

Thank you to the following Friends of the UCA members for becoming our partners in bringing quality performances and education to the community.

Soloist:

Trent Antony
 Alan and Jean Hammond
 Alfred and Ludmilla Kovalsky
 Betty Rae Marshall

Artist: (continued)

Charles and Madeline Greeb
 Bernard and Lory Levinger
 David and Peggy Lindstrom
 Paul and Roberta Mielke
 Kenneth and Mercedes Rock
 John and Rebecca Saccardi
 James and Jennifer Schafer
 Craig and Lorraine Shuler
 Nancy Wall
 Robert and A-Young Woody

Virtuoso:

Roberta Cook
 Michael and Elizabeth Elliott
 Cindy Haraway
 Gerald and Rosemarie
 McDermott

Artist:

Kenneth and Bernice Bueche
 William and Waltraud Cotton
 Patsy Dyekman
 Col. Sheldon and
 Aloma Godkin

Maestro:

Gary and Carol Ann Hixon

And thank you to the following Friends of the UCA who have helped us realize our vision in the past decade through their generous contributions to program support and scholarships.

Clyde and Roberta	Fred and Antonia	Charles and Reta Ralph
Abbett	Johnson	Maria Lourdes Smith
Barbara Cavarra and	Pierre and Helga Julien	Richard and Sharon True
Family	Michael Kirby	Frederick Wolke
Col. Donald Flood	Thomas and Jahanna	
Stewart and Sharon	Knight	
Golden	Margaret Makris	
James and Wendy	Kenneth and Myra	
Franzen	Monfort	

If you would like to become a Friend of the UCA member or need more information, contact Marilyn Bistline at Marilyn.Bistline@colostate.edu or by phone at (970) 491-4030.

GILBERT & SULLIVAN'S

THE GONDOLIERS

Colorado
State
University
OPERA THEATRE



With two handsome gondoliers and twenty four prospective brides, you'd expect a problem, or two...

Presented by CSU Opera Theatre and the University Sinfonia Orchestra

Evenings March 4, 10, 11, 7:30 PM
Matinee March 6, 2:00 PM

Griffin Concert Hall
University Center for the Arts
1400 Remington Street
Fort Collins

Tickets: \$10 / CSU students
\$1 / youth (age 2 - 17)
\$20 / adult

Purchase in advance to avoid at-the-door fees
www.CSUArtsTickets.com
(970) 491-ARTS (2787)

Poster design by Kristi Sledow-Thompson

What is Tsugaru shamisen?

During the late nineteenth century in northern Japan, the traditional three stringed lute called the shamisen underwent a very important period of growth. In the snowy and harsh region of northern Japan called Tsugaru, a blind street performer by the name of Nitabo created the faster and more aggressive style of shamisen playing which we today call Tsugaru shamisen (Tsugaru being the region of Japan in which Nitabo lived). In recent years, Tsugaru shamisen has become especially popular with Japan's younger age groups and has even begun appearing in mainstream music.

About the Tsugaru Shamisen Duo

Kevin Kmetz and Mike Penny are the first non-Japanese Tsugaru shamisen performers ever to have participated and placed in the national Tsugaru shamisen tournaments held annually in Tsugaru. Kevin and Mike have performed throughout Japan and the USA in a great number and variety of musical groups. Both having come from studying western music, Kevin and Mike have made a name for themselves adapting numerous countries' musical styles (among them western classical music) to the shamisen while simultaneously integrating many of the traditional shamisen playing techniques. Together, they offer one of the most interesting and exciting fusions of east and west, past and future.

Performer Biographies

Kevin Kmetz

Kevin Kmetz is the first foreigner in history to win the honorary Daijo Kazuo Award at the Tsugaru Shamisen Championship Competition in Kanagi, Japan on May 5, 2005 and the "Judges Choice" Award at the Hirosaki Championship tournament May 4, 2005. In both 2006 and 2007, Kevin placed Nyusho (runner-up) at Hirosaki and Jyun Yuusho (2nd place) at Kanagi. Kevin graduated High School in northern Japan (Misawa Air Force Base, Misawa, Japan) at Robert D. Edgren High School, a Department of Defense Dependent's School. He received his BFA Music composition degree from Cal Arts School of Music in 1995. Kevin is currently involved in several different musical projects, including the California-based six-piece experimental group Estradasphere, God of Shamisen, and shamisen trio Monsters of Shamisen. Kevin's goal is to create a true fusion of cultures by combining traditional Tsugaru Shamisen with various musical styles.



Performer Biographies

Mike Penny

Mike Penny is the second foreigner in history ever to be awarded for a performance at the national Tsugaru Shamisen Tournament in Kanagi, Japan, where he won 3rd place among over 200 competitors in 2006. Other significant accomplishments in his blooming career include receiving 1st Prize in Global Rhythm Magazine's annual songwriting contest in 2006 with a piece entitled *Cruzian Grass* composed for solo shamisen in the traditional bluegrass style, and receiving the Japan Foundation's Uchida Scholarship which allowed him to study in Tokyo with the highly respected Tsugaru shamisen sensei Fukushi Toyoaki during the winter of 2007-08. Currently he performs with Shamalamacord, an accordion/shamisen duo with Aaron Seeman, and with Monsters of Shamisen, a trio composed along with noted shamisen performers Kevin Kmetz of California and Masahiro Nitta of Japan. Mike Penny is also a former member of Fishtank Ensemble, a Balkan gypsy fusion group. With this active involvement with these talented groups and musicians, Mike Penny is successfully endeavoring to create an unprecedented style of shamisen playing which combines traditional techniques of Tsugaru shamisen with those of popular Japanese music, jazz, Balkan folk, western classical, and other influences in a fusion of both east and west as well as past and future. He has been featured in a TV documentary series entitled *100 Japanese People who will Save the World*, which aired nationally throughout Japan several times from July-September, 2009 on Japanese television network Terebi Tokyo.

