

Japan Council of Performers Rights & Performing Arts Organizations [GEIDANKYO]

Irikikanme and Satsuma Biwa in Satsumasendai City in Kagoshima prefecture. Performance of performing arts seeking for the origin of the national anthem “Kimigayo” is now available online.

“NOBODY KNOWS” is a project that rediscovers from the view of performing arts beauties of Japan Heritage*¹ and local culture. Organized by Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan, Japan Arts Council, Japan Council of Performers Rights & Performing Arts Organizations as “Japan Cultural Expo” project*² since 2019.

Under COVID-19 outbreak, online programs where visitors can enjoy history and culture of local regions and traditional performing arts live will be available instead of tours to the sites this year. Enjoy a trip to charms of hidden areas and Japanese traditions.

*1 Japan Heritage: An initiative by Agency for Cultural Affairs that certifies stories that tell Japanese culture and traditions as "Japan Heritage" through history and charms across the nation. The purpose is to revitalize regions and promote tourism by packaging tangible and intangible cultural properties in each region related to the story. As of June 2020, 104 locations have been certified.

*2 “Japan Cultural Expo” project: Projects, deployed throughout Japan, to promote Japanese cultural arts and spread its diverse and universal appeal in anticipation of fostering momentum for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics and increasing foreign tourists.



《YouTube》 Satsumasendai, Kagoshima Pref.

Performing arts that trace the roots of Japan in Irikikanme and Satsuma Biwa stream live

【Cast】Irikikanme Preserving Society, Hanayagi Genkuro (Nihon-buyo),
Tomoyoshi Kakushin (Satsuma Biwa), Inaba Akinori (Gagaku)

【MC】Higashikawa Ryutaro (Kagoshima Historical Guide)

Irikikanme, the origin of "Kimigayo" which is handed down in Omiya Shrine, and a story of "Silk Road" which provided Satsuma with Biwa and entertainment from mainland China is performed in collaboration of Nihonbuyo, Satsuma Biwa, ancient court music Gagaku and Shihokijinmai dance. Higashikawa Ryutaro, who belongs to Kagoshima Exploration Association and appeared on a popular TV program named "Bura Tamori", facilitates the program and offers amusing talks about the local history and performing arts.

Background:

Samurai population accounted for a quarter of that of Satsuma Domain during the Edo period. The feudal lord Shimazu created his own outer castle system by setting up more than 100 samurai residences called "Fumoto" around Yamashiro Castle to place samurai around him despite the Edo governmental order that prohibited each of domain to own more than two castles. This time, we offer traditional performing arts performance that trace the roots of Japan at the Old Masuda residence (designated national important cultural property) at Iriki Fumoto in the central area.

Iriki Fumoto is the birthplace of the national anthem "Kimigayo", its roots are highly concerned with three pieces: Irikikanme, Satsuma samurai and Satsuma Biwa. Irikikanme, which has been succeeded since the Kamakura period, contains Juninintsurugimai dance which took a line of "*May the reign of the Emperor continue for a thousand, nay, eight thousand generations*" from a Gaka (celebration poetry) in "Kokinwakashu". The one who was impressed with it was Satsuma samurai, Shimazu Tadayoshi in the Warring States period. Writing words for a Satsuma Biwa song "Mt. Horaisan" which was one of social graces for Satsuma samurai at that time, he quoted the line above. 300 years after that, in the Meiji period, infantry captain Oyama Iwao in Satsuma Domain, who was in charge of establishing the national anthem, took the lyrics from his favorite "Mt. Horaisan", as a result "Kimigayo" officially became the Japanese anthem.

OIrikikanme (Jininintsurugimai, Kinemai, Sarumemai, Shihokijinmai)



Since the Kamakura period, Irikikanme has been the Shinto ritual dedicated to Omiya Shrine as headquarters on November 23 and New Year's Eve. It is presumed that the modern theatrical Irikikanme came into the world by mixing ancient Hayato Kagura, Gagaku, and Izumo Kagura. Juninintsurugimai dance has the lyrics of the national anthem "Kimigayo" and is said to have become the basis of the national anthem. Although it had temporarily come to an end, it was revived in 1955. In April 2020, Irikikanme was designated as an intangible folklore cultural asset designated by Kagoshima Prefecture.

O“Silk Road in Four Seasons”





[Profile]



Hanayagi Genkuro

Born on 1981 in Nara. Graduated from Tokyo University of the Arts in 2003. Is known for his colorful and powerful performance style which fascinates people. Won the Incentive Award of the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in 2017. Received the new face award from Association of Dance Critics in 2013.



Tomoyoshi Kakushin

Born in Asakusa, Tokyo in 1965. He contributed to further development of Satsuma Biwa, a great achievement of his two grandfathers, with his master, Tsuruta Kinshi. He succeeded the name of his grandfather. He was awarded prizes by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and the NHK Chairman. He is active both in Japan and abroad, including performances hosted by the National Theater of Japan. He has been in charge of the examination and training of all the performing arts in many Taiga historical dramas including "Segodon" and special dramas.



Inaba Akinori

He started hichiriki at the age of 8 and studied under Togi Kanehiko of the Imperial Household Agency when he was 11. He became a member of the Japan Gagaku Association in 1979, was selected for the Tokyo Gakuso in 1980 and participated in numerous gagaku performances with Ono Tadamaro. He joined performances both domestically and internationally, CD production and numerous contemporary music performances mainly at the National Theater of Japan.



Higashikawa Ryutaro

He puts "town walk" in the center of his activities. Based on the history and geography of Kagoshima, he talks about the area as a guide on various themes such as modernology, Neighborhood Heritage, rustic hot springs, abandoned railways and microtopography. He is a Representative Director of the NPO of a community development local forum and Kagoshima Exploration Association. He cooperated in collecting historical materials for the Taiga historical drama "Segodon". He appeared on a popular TV program "Bura Tamori" (# 98 Kagoshima, # 99 Satsuma's Miracle).

NOBODY KNOWS

Organizer: Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan, Japan Arts Council, Japan Council of Performers Rights & Performing Arts Organizations

Co-organizer : The local governments of the Japan Heritage Recognition, etc

Support: Ministry of the Environment

<https://nobodyknows.tours/>

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