

IMC ASIAN MUSIC ROSTRUM 1971

(NHK contribution)

- \* Title: Sokyoku - "Akikaze no Kyoku" (Koto music - Song of Autumn Wind)
- \* Duration: about 25 minutes 30 seconds
- \* Artist: Vocal and koto solo - Fumiko YONEKAWA

Introduced here is the traditional Japanese classic instrument-- the Koto, in a vocal and instrument solo composition called "Akikaze no Kyoku".

- \* Instrument: The koto is a plucking instrument like the zither and its tones are somewhat similar to the Western harp. The body of the instrument is made from two pieces of paulownia wood, of which one piece is hollowed out to form a sound box and is a little less than 2 meters in length and 25 centimeters wide. It is strung with 13 silken strings and the pitch is regulated by the use of movable bridges usually made from wood or ivory. By adjusting these bridges, more than 13 note-scales can be produced. When playing the koto, the strings are plucked with ivory picks attached to three fingers of the right hand, while the left hand is used to push down on the strings. By either strengthening or loosening the tension of the strings grace notes can be produced.

In the case of Western instruments while many fixed notes are available, the performer on the koto can produce the necessary pitches by the technique of manipulating a few