

performance. Thus, the composition for that period while reviving the old also introduced new playing techniques. In fact it was said that, at that time many fellow composers and koto performers expressed their displeasure towards the work.

- * Artist: Fumiko Yonekawa is the foremost koto performer in Japan today. For her koto artistry and interpretation of the ancient art she has been designated as an Important Intangible Cultural Asset Human Treasure by the Government.
- * Note: The vocal portion of sokyoku taking its tradition from the ancient vocal recitations and songs accompanying the Heike biwa did not demand the beauty of voice or exactness of musical notes as demanded in Western music. Also since there was no need for chorus vocalizing the melody or rhythm could be freely expressed according to the artist's artistic interpretation.