

# Biwa (琵琶)

Week 5

[https://fod-infobase-com.ezproxy.lib.umb.edu/p\\_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=30230&loid=25602&tScript=0](https://fod-infobase-com.ezproxy.lib.umb.edu/p_ViewVideo.aspx?xtid=30230&loid=25602&tScript=0)



Biwa hoshi  
琵琶法師



Chikuzen/Satsuma/Moso/Heike/Gagaku

Chikuzen biwa  
筑前琵琶



Satsuma biwa  
薩摩琵琶



Gaku biwa  
楽琵琶



Shosoin Repository in Nara  
正倉院





Hoichi without ears  
(みみなしほういち)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nYF4a\\_8ZzOQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nYF4a_8ZzOQ)



Akama Shrine in Yamaguchi

(Youtube)

Music in class: November steps by Tōru Takemitsu

# Shakuhachi

尺八

Week 5

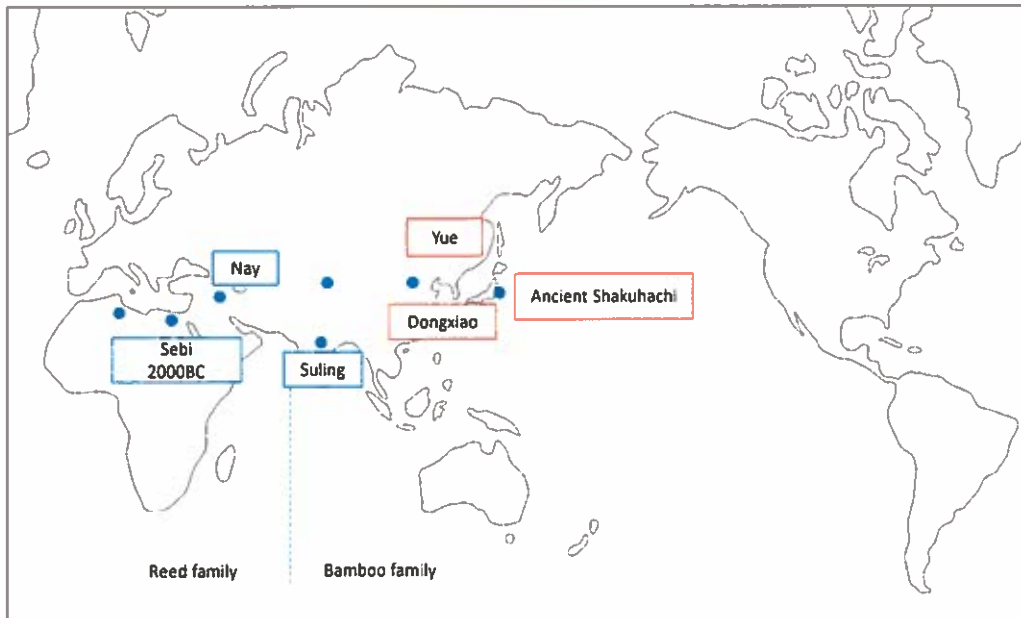
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ia3jguN13I>

Text: p43-44, 48



komusō

## Roots of Shakuhachi



- 1.8 shaku (54.2 cm); Japanese timber bamboo root end
- There are five types of shakuhachi:
  - Kodai (Asuka 538-710)
  - Tenpuku (Muromachi 1336-1573)
  - Hitoyogiri (Kamakura 1185-1333)
  - Fuke (Edo 1603-1868) : 5 holes and 7 joints
  - Shalihachi w/7 or more holes (Taisho 1912-1926): 7-9 holes and 7 joints
- Honkyoku = music originally or exclusively made for shakuhachi ↔ Gaikyoku
- Categories of shakuhachi music: Honkyoku, Gaikyoku, Modern, and others
- Categories by style
 

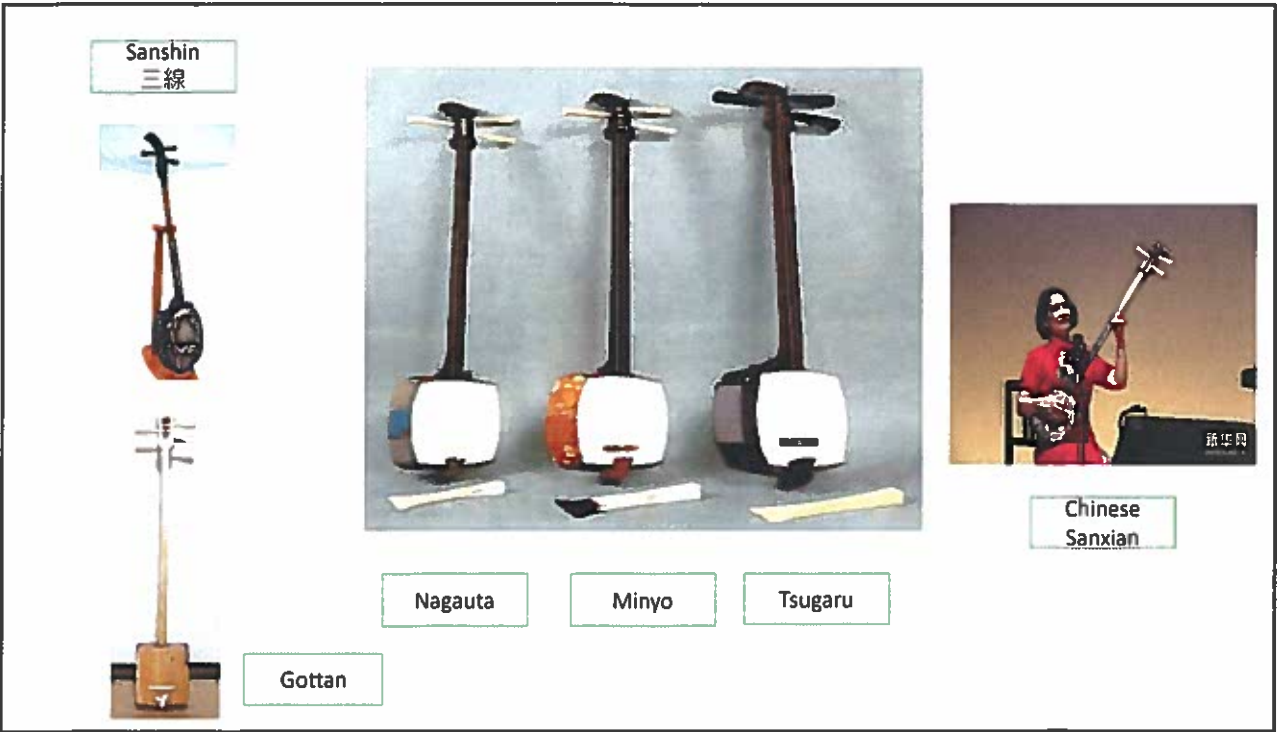
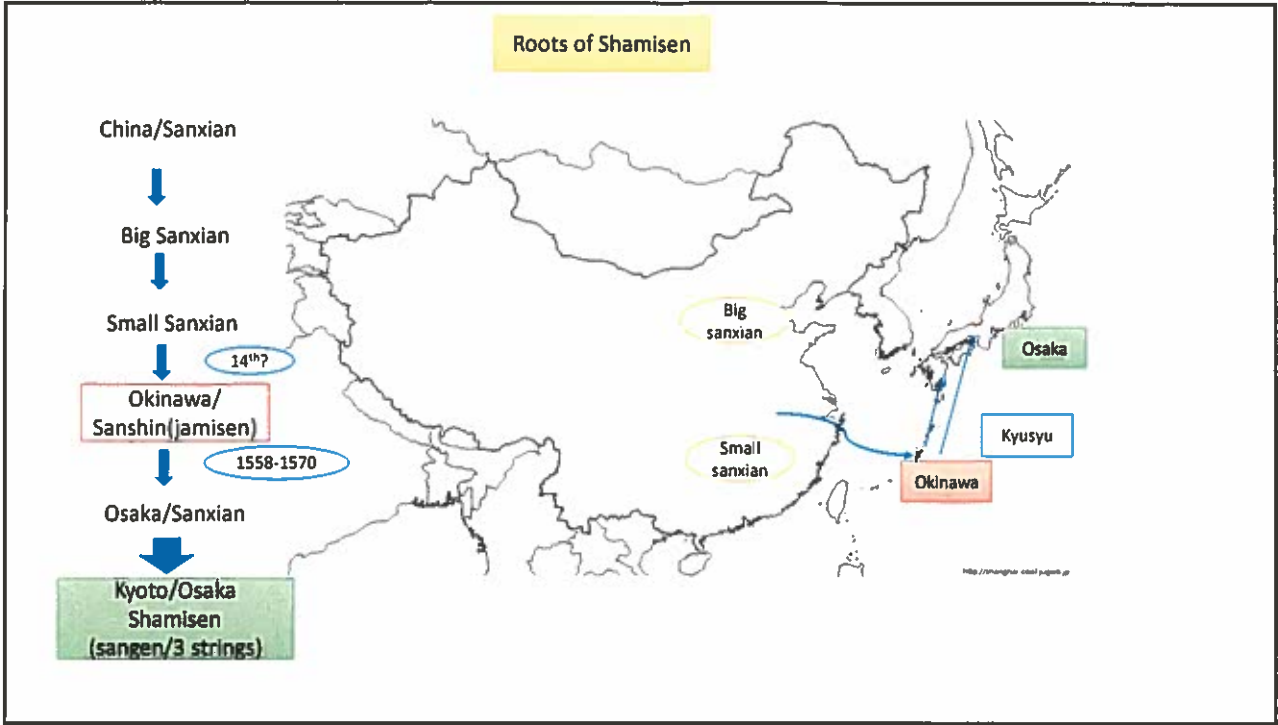
a. Religious music	Classical honkyoku
b. Art music	Classical; Early modern times; Modern times
c. Folk music	Folk song shakuhachi
d. Popular music	Jazz/pops

## Shamisen 三味線

Week 5

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i0MR\\_g59E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i0MR_g59E)

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•Classification of Shamisen

<Shamisen music categories>

Jiuta	Shokyoku
Joruri	gidayu-bush(bunraku)
Nagauta	kabuki
Short song	Kouta/Hauta/Utazawa
Folk song	

•How shamisen was transformed?

1. The drum body became bigger and the frame was made of 4 pieces wood.
2. Cat or dog skin replaced snake skin.
3. The straight neck was angled like biwa.
4. The lowest string created "buzz" sounds called "sawari."
5. The bridge was change in shape, size, and weight.
6. The inside of the drum frame was curved for better sonority.

Homework #4  
3/7 (Th)

Describe how each instrument is used in a performance setting:  
biwa, shakuhachi and shamisen.