

# Hibiki Ichikawa

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Hibiki is a London based Tsugaru Shamisen player with over 15 years of experience in playing this unique and fascinating instrument. He first came to the UK in 2011 and was later granted the qualification to perform under the 'Tier 1 Exceptional Talent Visa'. He has since fully settled in London. Officially recognised as a world leading talent of Tsugaru Shamisen, Hibiki regularly performs across the UK and Europe.

His professional activities include teaching more than 30 students and collaborating with many other musicians and artists across a variety of projects.

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Featured in an online promotional campaign for Nike Dunk as an official brand ambassador
- Performed in China alongside the London Philharmonic Orchestra for the 2023 Genshin Impact Concert, 'Melodies Of An Endless Journey'
- Collaboration with Dario Marianelli for the soundtrack of the academy nominated film 'Kubo and the Two Strings'
- Various international performances organised by the Embassy of Japan in over 20 countries including Kosovo, Mauritius, Austria, Portugal, Iceland and the Netherlands
- London underground busking license

# WHAT IS TSUGARU SHAMISEN?

The shamisen originated approximately 500 years ago and its growing popularity made it a key instrument in Japanese music during the Edo period. Different styles of shamisen emerged throughout Japan.

The Tsugaru Shamisen comes from Aomori, the northernmost prefecture of Japan's main island. Its distinctive percussive and improvised style of playing gives it much versatility, allowing it to accompany different kinds of music, including folk, jazz and rock.

## LESSONS

- Private lessons in London at £35 an hour (30 minute trial lesson for £10)
- Home visiting lessons within London (transport fee charged separately)
- Shamisen provided for lesson
- 30 minute lessons for children
- Group lessons or workshop opportunities, including sessions at local schools, available upon request

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[www.hibikishamisen.com](http://www.hibikishamisen.com)

[info@hibikishamisen.com](mailto:info@hibikishamisen.com)