WSF2018 LONDON

The European Shakuhachi Society is pleased to announce the very first World Shakuhachi Festival (WSF) in Europe, reflecting the fact that Europe has become a firmly established territory for the shakuhachi in recent years.

The WSF2018 London will offer an unique opportunity to experience the world of shakuhachi close up and in a variety not seen before in the UK or Europe. Whether you are a seasoned shakuhachi professional, an enthusiastic hobbyist or simply interested in discovering new cultural and musical territory, WSF2018 is the place to be.

Our schedule is bursting with a wide range of concerts, workshops, lectures, talks, exhibitions, screenings and informal gatherings, bringing together around 40 top-level shakuhachi performers from Japan and another 40 from other countries to play and teach.

WSF2018 THEMES

The musical world of the shakuhachi is very broad. To help you navigate your way through WSF2018, there are five main themes:

Great Solos from the Past: music from the core solo repertoire of the shakuhachi (the so-called honkyoku, ‘original pieces’), from its centuries-old origins, influenced by Japanese Zen practice, through to its more modern extensions.

Golden Oldies: ensemble music, mainly from the 18th and 19th centuries, with the shakuhachi in combination with other Japanese instruments such as koto (long zither) and shamisen (long-necked lute) and voice, as well as min'yō (folksong with shakuhachi).

New Sounds: music for the shakuhachi (solo and in ensembles) from the start of the 20th century up until the 1970s, revealing the exchange between Japanese and Western musical thought.

New Horizons: recent musical developments and musical crossovers with the shakuhachi, from the 1970s through to the present, including contemporary classical music, jazz, popular music, improvisation, electronic music…

The Thing: the history, construction, and maintenance of the instrument itself.

SHAKUHACHI

The shakuhachi is a traditional end blown Japanese bamboo flute, with (usually) five finger holes, and an angled blowing edge. It is played vertically and its tone is often described as haunting and meditative, being rich with inflections of pitch and timbre.

In addition to its classical manifestations, the shakuhachi now occupies a secure place in film soundtracks and popular music.

LOCATIONS & VENUES

Goldsmiths University of London (main location)
8 Lewisham Way, New Cross, London SE14 6NW
Great Hall, Richard Hoggart Building, Goldsmiths (concerts)
8 Lewisham Way, New Cross, London SE14 6NW
Deptford Town Hall Council Chamber, Goldsmiths (concerts)
New Cross Road, New Cross, London SE14 6AF
St James Hatcham Building, Goldsmiths (concerts)
St James’s, New Cross, London SE14 6AD
Union Chapel London (opening concert)
Compton Terrace, Islington, London N1 2UN
SOAS University of London (shakuhachi symposium)
Thornhaugh Street, Bloomsbury, London WC1H 0XG

ORGANISERS

European Shakuhachi Society (ESS) – www.shakuhachisociety.eu
The ESS, a UK registered charity founded in 2008, is a network and platform where shakuhachi players of all styles, schools or genres and aficionados alike can meet and share their common interest.

Kokusai Shakuhachi Kenshukan (KSK Japan) – www.shak8.com/kenshukan
The KSK is a modern school of shakuhachi with roots in the traditions of Japanese music, founded by YOKOYAMA Katsuya.

Aomori Min’yō Kyōkai (AMK Japan) – www.aominyo.jp
The AMK is a non-profit organisation aiming at preserving the folk music culture of Aomori in northern Japan.

WSF2018 is supported by:

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design: www.thorstenknaub.com

wsf2018.com
CONCERTS

Featuring top international performers and a breathtaking variety of programmes, showcasing the rich diversity of shakuhachi music.

GALA OPENING CONCERT 31 JULY
20h00 – 22h00 Union Chapel, London

WEDNESDAY 1 AUGUST
13h00 – 14h00 Lunchtime Concert – Golden Oldies
Great Hall, Goldsmiths
13h00 – 14h00 Lunchtime Concert – New Sounds
St. James Hatcham Building, Goldsmiths
17h00 – 18h15 Afternoon Concert – Great Solos
Deptford Town Hall Council Chamber, Goldsmiths
20h00 – 21h30 Evening Concert – Mixed Programme
Great Hall, Goldsmiths

THURSDAY 2 AUGUST
13h00 – 14h00 Lunchtime Concert – Great Solos
Great Hall, Goldsmiths
13h00 – 14h00 Lunchtime Concert – New Horizons
St. James Hatcham Building, Goldsmiths
17h00 – 18h15 Afternoon Concert – Tribute to Ronnie Nyogetsu Seldin
Deptford Town Hall Council Chamber, Goldsmiths
20h00 – 21h30 Evening Concert – Great Solos/New Horizons
Great Hall, Goldsmiths

FRIDAY 3 AUGUST
13h00 – 14h00 Lunchtime Concert – New Horizons Focus: Frank Denyer
Great Hall, Goldsmiths
13h00 – 14h00 Lunchtime Concert – Golden Oldies
St. James Hatcham Building, Goldsmiths
17h00 – 18h15 Afternoon Concert – Great Solos
Deptford Town Hall Council Chamber, Goldsmiths
20h00 – 21h30 Evening Concert – Mixed Programme
Great Hall, Goldsmiths

SATURDAY 4 AUGUST
13h00 – 14h00 Lunchtime Concert – Golden Oldies
Great Hall, Goldsmiths
13h00 – 14h00 Lunchtime Concert – New Horizons
St. James Hatcham Building, Goldsmiths
17h00 – 18h15 Afternoon Concert – New Sounds/New Horizons
Deptford Town Hall Council Chamber, Goldsmiths
20h00 – 21h30 Grand Finale Concert – Mixed Programme
Great Hall, Goldsmiths

WORLD CLASS PERFORMERS

40 top-level shakuhachi performers from Japan and another 40 from other countries will be in London this August – listen to and learn from shakuhachi masters like ENOMOTO Shusui, FURUYA Teruo, KAWAMURA Kizan, KAWASE Yosuke, KURAHASHI Yodo II, MATAMA Kazushi, NOMURA Hozan, ZENJOJI Keisuke, Clive BELL, Christopher Yohmei BLASDEL, Riley LEE, John Kaizan NEPTUNE, David Kansuke II WHEELER, and many, many more.

Get to know all our guest at wsf2018.com/wsf-people

LECTURES, SCREENINGS & TALKS

Each day, there will be up to 4 lunchtime lectures (13h00) and 4 late afternoon lectures (17h00), presented by shakuhachi professionals, historians, musicologists and other leading experts in their fields.

The topics cover the entire range of the themes of the Festival, ranging from shakuhachi history, repertoire and various playing styles and techniques, to the use of shakuhachi in modern compositions, contemporary genres and soundtracks, the shakuhachi outside of Japan and its diaspora, through to the construction, acoustics and historic development of the instrument itself.

Talks, demonstrations and screenings will complement the programme.

WORKSHOPS

For shakuhachi players, WSF2018 offers an unparalleled range of workshops with professional teachers and performers.

Over the four days, more than 120 workshops will be offered, covering all themes and a range of pieces at levels from elementary to advanced, offering insight into performance techniques for many traditional repertoires, including min'yō, as well as contemporary styles, jazz, improvisation, popular music and modern composition.

Beginner, thinking about starting up? There is no better time to start than at a WSF! With two workshops each day by top professionals you will discover why shakuhachi is such an amazing and beautiful instrument.

SHAKUHACHI COMPETITION

As a part of WSF2018 London, and in celebration of the shakuhachi and its music around the world, we are excited to announce the Hōgaku Journal International Shakuhachi Competition 2018, a music competition to showcase the greatest up-and-coming shakuhachi performers from around the world. This competition is open to everyone.

Find out how to register at wsf2018.com/competition

Tickets for the GALA OPENING CONCERT at Union Chapel can be purchased directly at store.unionchapel.org.uk/events

Standard £ 20 | £ 15 concessions (+ booking fee)

*For details on how to become an ESS member please visit www.shakuhachisociety.eu

**Full-time students, unemployment or disability benefit receivers.

Full details can be found on the Festival website at wsf2018.com