

雅楽

# Gagaku:

Music of the Imperial Ceremonies of Japan  
One Thousand Years of Elegance and  
Harmony



Naoyuki Manabe



Yutaka Ōta and Yoshie Kunimoto



Special Guest  
Maestro Hideaki Bunno

Santa Barbara Museum of Art  
Mary Craig Auditorium  
Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 6 PM

This evening event will feature three musicians from the Naoyuki MANABE GAGAKU Ensemble lead by Naoyuki Manabe. Manabe, who holds a degree from the prestigious Tokyo University of the Arts, is a composer, multi-instrumentalist and dancer who has performed internationally. The ensemble includes leading musicians, Yoshie Kunimoto and Yutaka Ōta. Also performing is special guest Maestro Hideaki Bunno, former Director of the Gagaku Orchestra at the Tokyo Imperial Palace. Maestro Bunno is the 45th generation of a family that has transmitted the art of the shō, a type of mouth organ, an instrument unique to gagaku for more than 1300 years. In 2009, he received the prestigious prize from the Japanese Academy of the Arts. The Gagaku Orchestra at the Imperial Palace of Japan was established in 701; its music is recognized by UNESCO as part of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity.

This public presentation at SBMA is sponsored by the Friends of Asian Art in collaboration with the UCSB Gagaku Project, a multidisciplinary initiative, spearheaded in 2019 by Professor Fabio Rambelli, Chair of the Department of Religious Studies and holder of the International Shinto Foundation chair in Shinto Studies. It also involves the Departments of Theater and Dance, East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies, Music, and the AD&A Museum. Additional sponsors include Robert N.H. Ho Foundation and the Michael Hurley/Manitou Fund.

Gagaku is the most ancient and continuously performed orchestral tradition in the world. It is exceptional in its combination of an archaic allure with unexpected contemporary features such as free rhythms, complex sound clusters, and controlled dissonance. Hope you will join us and help foster this ancient art form that played a vital role in the religious rituals and ceremonies at Japan's Imperial Court.



*Friends of ASIAN ART*

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Tickets for the gagaku event can be purchased on the Santa Barbara Museum of Art website at <https://www.sbma.net/events/>

This event is free for members and  
\$5 for non-members.

In an effort to create the safest possible environment, please note visitors who plan to attend an event in SBMA's Mary Craig Auditorium must show proof of being fully vaccinated with a booster (if eligible) OR, in some cases, supply a negative Covid-19 medical test result (taken within 72 hours prior to each event), along with an official photo ID, before entering the venue. All visitors must also follow SBMA's mask policy and wear a mask while attending events in SBMA's Mary Craig Auditorium.

Contact Sam Silveira at [ssilveira@sbma.net](mailto:ssilveira@sbma.net) or 805.884.6425 for answers to any questions you may have about the event.