

Shakuhachi

Workshop of introduction to the instrument, its cultural context and traditional music

Teach by: Horacio Curti. Shakuhachi player and Theacher, formed in Japan.
Maximum group number: 8 persons.
Duration: Depends on the possibilites but should rank between 5 and 15 hours and between 2 to 4 days, with an ideal of no more than 3 hours each day.
Instruments will be provided for the practice.
No previous knowledge is required.

The Shakuhachi is a Japanese bamboo vertical flute with only 5 holes. A simple structure instrument, that posses a very rich variety of tone colors, sound qualities, and timbres.

It is commonly accepted that it entered Japan from China as part of the Gagaku music orchestra around the VII century. It was later excluded from this form of music and no register is kept until around the XIII century, when it was adopted by a group of Zen Buddhist monks, as part of their religious meditation practice. In this context the instrument was not a musical one but a religious tool.

With time this meditations were recovered as musical pieces and formed the group of music now known as *Koten Honkyoku*.

Besides *Honkyoku*, the instrument takes part on different traditional Japanese repertoires such as *Sankyoku* or *Minyo*.

Characteristics of the Workshop

The workshop proposes an introduction to both the shakuhachi world, and different traditional music's associated with the instrument; making emphasis on the form of *Koten Honkyoku*.

The aim is mainly practical. Theory will not be imparted, but descriptions and explanations will be shared.

The work will be based on:

- Make a cultural-historical reconstruction from the moment the instrument entered Japan, identifying and putting into context, the different characteristics to which it has been associated on different moments of it's history, using recorded and live musical examples.
- Experience with the instrument, discovering it's basic elements and starting the road of the practice as much as allowed by time and group characteristics. This is the main part of the course.
- Getting to know the teaching and transmtion ways associated to the practice of the instrument in Japan and the interpretation of *Koten Honkyoku*, and the differences with the way music is taught in Western Countries:
 - o The teacher-student relationship.
 - o The importance of intuition on the learning process.
 - o The structure of a class.
 - o Oral transmtion and notation of the *koten Honkyoku*. Their role and importance.

Horacio Curti Studied Biologic Sciences at the Universidad de Buenos Aires (Buenos Aires University). Is then when He started his saxophone studies together with Jazz. The music grew in importance on his life until He decided to dedicate solely to it. He is formed in different disciplines on different countries, participates on several Jazz groups, making recordings and teaching the instrument. Later, on a trip to Asia he discover the Shakuhachi and goes to Japan to start his studies of the instrument and the *Honkyoku* music with Kakizakai Kaoru Sensei, one of Yokoyama Katsuya top students. Since then Japan has been a constant reference in his road,

so much as his contact with masters and musicians from different countries such as USA, Canada and Australia. His formation continues through periodic visits to Japan. He has developed and participated on several projects oriented to the divulgation of the Shakuhachi and the Japanese traditional music in countries such as Japan, USA, Argentina and Spain. At present resides in Barcelona, where he is committed to the teaching of shakuhachi, the interpretation and divulgation of *Koten Honkyoku* music and also to the free improvised music; as much as to teaching shakuhachi through demonstration, courses and individual lessons, collaborating at a regular basis with institutions such as *Escola Superior de Música de Catalunya* (Superior Catalanian Music School).

Horacio Curti
Shakuhachi player & teacher