

## Koto Basics

### Section 1

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#### 【Course Outline / Description】

Students will learn to read koto tablature while practicing the instrument. Assignments will be based on students' progress. We will begin with the best-known Japanese song, Sakura, followed by other Japanese songs; mainly classics. Students will be expected to sing while playing, therefore, will be required to learn Japanese songs and their scales.

### Section 2

#### 【Course Objectives/Goals/Learning Outcomes】

Students can understand Japanese culture and koto tablature through basic Koto performance. Also, students will learn how to properly set up the instrument and store it.

### Section 3

#### 【Class Schedule/Class Environment, Literature and Materials】

1	Introduction of Basic rules for this course. Preparation of koto picks. Learn how to properly set up the instrument and store it.	Students must buy koto tsume (picks). Do the assigned readings about koto and note any questions. Also, list things you didn't understand in class.
2	Learn how to properly set up the instrument and store it. Study tuning method.	Do the assigned readings about koto and note any questions. Also, list things you didn't understand in class. Review koto tablature. Learn the string name (kanji) of the koto.
3	Learn the basics of playing with the right thumb. Learn basic techniques playing with the right hand (Sukui-zume).	Do the assigned readings about koto and note any questions. Also, list things you didn't understand in class. Review koto tablature. Learn the string name (kanji) of the koto.
4	Learn basic techniques playing with the right hand and left hand (Sukui-zume, Oshi-de). Practice for basic koto performance.	Do the assigned readings about koto and note any questions. Also, list things you didn't understand in class. Review koto tablature and the string name (kanji) of the koto.
5	Practice for basic koto performance. Learn basic techniques playing with the right hand (Awase-zume). Study and practice repertoires of various performance styles (unison, ensemble, and playing while singing).	Do the assigned readings about koto and note any questions. Also, list things you didn't understand in class. Review koto tablature and the string name (kanji) of the koto.
6	Practice for basic koto performance. Study of various styles of rendition of repertoires and practice.	Do the assigned readings about koto and note any questions. Also, list things you didn't understand in class. Review koto tablature and the string name (kanji) of the koto.
7	Practice for basic koto performance. Learn basic	Do the assigned readings about koto and note any questions. Also, list things you didn't understand in

	techniques playing with the right hand and left hand (Wari-zume, Hiki-iro, Ato-oshi, and so on). Study of various styles of rendition of repertoires and practice.	class. Review koto tablature and the string name (kanji) of the koto.
8	Practice for basic koto performance. Study of various styles of rendition of repertoires and practice.	Do the assigned readings about koto and note any questions. Also, list things you didn't understand in class. Review koto tablature and the string name (kanji) of the koto.
9	Practice for basic koto performance. Practice to play koto while singing in Japanese.	Do the assigned readings about koto and note any questions. Also, list things you didn't understand in class. Review koto tablature and the string name (kanji) of the koto.
10	Practice for basic koto performance. Students will try the ensemble.	Do the assigned readings about koto and note any questions. Also, list things you didn't understand in class. Review koto tablature and the string name (kanji) of the koto.
11	Learn each part of the ensemble piece little by little. Learn to play the first part.	Do the assigned readings about koto and note any questions. Also, list things you didn't understand in class. While looking at koto tablature, remember the melody.
12	Review the last lesson. Learn to play the first part.	Do the assigned readings about koto and note any questions. Also, list things you didn't understand in class. While looking at koto tablature, remember the melody.
13	Review the last lesson. Learn to play the first part.	Do the assigned readings about koto and note any questions. Also, list things you didn't understand in class. While looking at koto tablature, remember the melody.
14	Review the last lesson. Learn to play the second part.	Do the assigned readings about koto and note any questions. Also, list things you didn't understand in class. While looking at koto tablature, remember the melody.
15	Review the last lesson. Learn to play the second part.	Do the assigned readings about koto and note any questions. Also, list things you didn't understand in class. While looking at koto tablature, remember the melody.
16	Review the last lesson. Learn to play the second part.	Do the assigned readings about koto and note any questions. Also, list things you didn't understand in class. While looking at koto tablature, remember the melody.
17	Review the last lesson. Try to join the ensemble in either part.	Do the assigned readings about koto and note any questions. Also, list things you didn't understand in class. While looking at koto tablature, remember the melody.
18	Review the last lesson. Learn to play the first part for another piece.	Do the assigned readings about koto and note any questions. Also, list things you didn't understand in class. While looking at koto tablature, remember the melody.
19	Review the last lesson. Learn to play the first part for another piece.	Do the assigned readings about koto and note any questions. Also, list things you didn't understand in class. While looking at koto tablature, remember the melody.
20	Review the last lesson. Learn to play the first part for	Do the assigned readings about koto and note any questions. Also, list things you didn't understand in

	another piece.	class. While looking at koto tablature, remember the melody.
21	Review the last lesson. Learn to play the second part for another piece.	You may practice in the studio, when permission is given.
22	Review the last lesson. Learn to play the second part for another piece.	practice
23	Review the last lesson. Learn to play the second part for another piece.	practice
24	Review the last lesson. Try to join the ensemble in either part.	practice
25	Practice for recitals. Learn new piece that have not yet been learned.	practice
26	Practice for recitals. Learn new piece that have not yet been learned.	practice
27	Practice for recitals. Learn new piece that have not yet been learned.	practice
28	Practice for recitals. Learn new piece that have not yet been learned.	practice
29	Practice for recitals	practice
30	Performance of recitals	Students should performance with both solo and ensemble. The recital performance is the final project to complete this course.

**【Textbooks/Reading Materials】**

There are no assigned textbooks. Materials and tablatures will be distributed in class, and a file to keep them will be needed.

**Section 4**

**【Learning Assessments/Grading Rubric】**

Genuine, active participation; 30%

Assignment (You will be able to master accurate fingering, to sing a Japanese song while playing koto, to enjoy the performance like an ensemble with another melody.); 40%

Final Project; 30%

**Section 5**

**【Additional Information】**

1. Students interested in music are preferable, however, having played the instrument in the past is not a prerequisite.
2. Like all other studio courses, regular attendance and active participation are required.
3. The maximum number of students for registration is limited to 16 per class.
4. In this course, kakuzume, (square-shaped picks) of Ikuta school style will be used.
5. Students will also be required to sing along while playing the koto.
6. Since Koto tablatures are written in Chinese numerals, students will be encouraged to learn to read basic Chinese (kanji) characters.
7. In the class, students learn about Japanese culture, so this class is basically conducted in Japanese language.
8. Don't forget to bring your koto tsume (picks) and tablatures on the day of koto class.
9. A material fee of ¥5,000 per semester (including koto tsume fee), payable in advance, will be charged. (non-refundable)

