



Special Concert in Celebration  
of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Establishment  
of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Oman



*Invitation to magnificent tunes from the past*



**HIDEKI TOGI**

東儀 秀樹

**Gagaku (Ancient Japanese Court Music) Player**

*Presented by the Embassy of Japan, Oman-Japan Friendship Association,  
and the Committee for the 2012 Hideki Togi Special Concert in Oman*

**23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. (Doors open at 7:00 p.m.)**  
**Oman Auditorium, Al Bustan Palace**

**Free Admission**

**Inquiries: Embassy of Japan (Phone: 24 601028 ext. 38)**



## Biography

Hideki Togi, gagaku player, was born in Tokyo in 1959. The Togi family has a tradition of Gagaku (ancient Japanese court music) which can be traced back to the Nara period (1,300 years ago). Due to his father's job, Hideki spent his childhood abroad and grew up surrounded by various kinds of music including rock, classical and jazz. After graduating from high school, he joined the music department of the Imperial Household Agency. His main focus there was the Japanese instrument, the Hichiriki; however, he also gained experiences with the Biwa, Tsuzumi and cello; he also sang and danced. By participating not only in the ceremonies at the Imperial Palace, but also in the overseas performances, Hideki has played an important role in introducing the traditional Japanese culture both at home and abroad, and promoting international friendship. In addition, he passionately creates his own music by combining the natural flavour of Gagaku with piano and synthesizers. Since moving into the limelight in 1996 with his debut album *Togi Hideki*, he has continued to generate one album after another. He has also held an Album Release Japan Tour every year since 1999. His 2000 album *TOG/SM2* received a Japan Record Award for best project. He has also won Gold Disc Awards for Album of the Year in traditional Japanese music eight times since his 2000 release *Gagaku*.



## Instruments

Gagaku has wind, string and percussion sections. The three wind instruments are the hichiriki, the sho and the ryuteki. When these three instruments are played together, heaven, earth and everything between become one. In this way, Gagaku represents a universe and has its own cosmology.



**[Hichiriki]** It is a bamboo flute with a reed and nine finger holes, similar in many ways to the oboe, which traces its roots to the hichiriki. It has a range much like that of the human voice. It is said to express the voice of those who live on earth - in other words, humans.



**[Sho]** It has seventeen bamboo pipes and is thought to resemble a phoenix at rest with its wings upright. It is capable of playing multiple tones simultaneously. It can be played either by blowing or inhaling. People of ancient times are said to have believed that the sound of the sho expressed a ray of heavenly light.



**[Ryuteki]** It is a bamboo flute with seven finger holes and a term written with the characters for "dragon flute", represents the sound of dragon that flies in the space between heaven and earth.