

Hello everyone!

CI Music Hour Recap 5/4/23

Last week we welcomed musician and educator, Terry Nguyen. Terry introduced our group to the Japanese traditional instrument: Tsugaru shamisen. The Tsugaru shamisen is a three stringed instrument that originated in Hokkaido, a Northern region of Japan. Terry explained that the music played on the Tsugaru shamisen is folk music, or 'work' music that described everyday life in Hokkaido, such as fishing and working in cold weather.

We also learned about the evolution of the Tsugaru shamisen. The instrument evolved from another instrument called the Chinese Sanxian, which came to Okinawa, Japan via the silk road. This later developed into what is known as the Okinawa Sanshin, which eventually made its way to Hokkaido where the Tsugaru shamisen originated. Terry demonstrated music for the group on both the Tsugaru Shamisen and the Okinawa Sanshin. While both instruments have three strings, the sanshin is a third of the size of the shamisen and is played with a pick that attaches to the musician's index finger. The shamisen on the other hand, is played with a tool called a "bachi" which is made to facilitate a more percussive style of playing in which the musician both plucks the strings and hits the body of the instrument.

Terry played several pieces of music for us live on both instruments. You can watch and listen to these at the Music Hour recording here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iRU4KTJCfcSAfmfvwnDBp993j2lpV5iv/view?usp=sharing>.

You can also watch and listen to more of Terry's work on her YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/tsugaruterry>. Terry is also a member of a multi-ethnic ensemble, called the The Wagaku Collective, which features traditional Japanese folk instruments, including the shamisen. You can check that out here:

<https://www.instagram.com/thewagakucollective/?hl=en>.

CI Music Hour Tomorrow 5/11/23

Tomorrow we will have our last Music Hour of the Spring. This will be a "share and tell" Music Hour with just our group. We welcome any and all members to share music with the group, whether that is a piece they'd like to play live, a recording that they'd like to share, or anything else music related that they'd like to share with the group! If you plan to share something, you can email me to let me know what you plan to share or you can jump in spontaneously at the hour to share with the group!

See you all tomorrow!

Julianne