

Shamisen Artist

Samisen is the Japanese traditional instrument,
and there is a local player in Fujiyoshida.

1. What is Shamisen?

Do you like music? Especially, do you know Shamisen? If you are from Okinawa, then you know must know it a lot. As you know, Shamisen is an Okinawa musical instrument. Can you write it in Japanese Kanji? We write it like this-三味線, it means only three strings are connected with main body. The Shamisen is considered the soul of Okinawa folk music. It is the center of family gatherings, weddings, birthdays, festivals. There are some good points. The Sanshin is easy to play because it has only 3 strings. We don't need to remember any chord progression like the guitar. In addition, the Sanshin can express the feelings of its players with their songs. Those are the recommended points.



Only three strings!
It differs from guitar, violin and some
other stinged instrument.

2. The Shamisen player

Mr.Shirasu is Shamisen player. He is from Yamanashi, and He is 50s. He started playing the Shamisen about 10 years ago, when He was 40 years old. Why he started playing the Shamisen? When he went to Okinawa and watched the Shamisen performance, he felt envious of valuing their identity. After he returned Yamanashi, he started learning the Shamisen by himself. Now he active in Fujiyoshida, Tokyo and so on. The link of Mr.Shirasu's Facebook is as follows.

Please click it and check it out.

<https://www.facebook.com/%E7%99%BD%E9%A0%88%E9%9B%85%E4%B8%80-official-1150721601687862>

His Facebook account's
profile picture.



3. Place and date

The place where you are able to listen to shamisen songs played by him occasionally. At Idaten which is tempura restaurant located in Fujiyoshida, he plays the shamisen approximately three times a month at night. Also, he often goes to Tokyo and plays the shamisen. However, due to the COVID-19, these opportunities are not held now. Normally, about 80% of audience at restaurant are foreign visitors. He said that they can have a good time at there with traditional Japanese music. Of course, customers come to eat good meals, so just listening to the music played by Shamisen. And you don't need to pay extra charge to listen it.



4. Songs

About three years after he started playing songs which was written by Japanese artists, he began to compose it by himself. The song he composed is written about his own city. For example, The song of Yoshida Udon and Grain of Light. It takes usually from 30 minutes to an hour to complete writing songs when he composes. However, it can take a couple of years in regard to several songs. His representative songs are as follows.



The song of Yoshida Udon

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=seCHZlhYUDs>

5. CD and Online

Based on above sentences, now you feel like listening to his music. Actually, Mr. Shirasu sells his song by CD and Internet. We can buy his CD on Amazon and Mercari (Online shopping). And we can download his song on Apple music and Spotify. It is very convenient because, if you don't have time to go CD shop or there are no CD shops around you live in like Tsuru city, you can get the song whenever you want if only you have electronic devices. We recommend you to check these sites as follows. Let's enjoy his song!

<https://www.tunecore.co.jp/to/itunes/413039>

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