

Curriculum Vitae

Christopher Blasdel, (Performance name: Christopher Yohmei)

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Place of birth: Canyon, Texas, USA

DOB: 12/29/1951 Citizenship: USA

Visa status: Permanent resident in Japan

Marital status: married

Language Competence: Native tongue: English. Complete fluency in speaking, reading & writing Japanese. Basic conversational abilities in Spanish, German & Thai.

Education:

- 1974 BA in Japan Studies, Earlham College, Richmond, IN
- 1972-73 Waseda University, International Division
- 1982 MFA, Ethnomusicology (Japanese Music) Tokyo Geijutsu Daigaku (Tokyo University of the Fine Arts)
- 1984 Awarded teaching License (Shihan) and performance name, "Yohmei," from Chikumeisha Shakuhachi Guild

Teaching experience

- 1988, Earlham College / Artist in residence / Japanese music (three months).
- 1989—present, Asahi Culture Center / Shakuhachi instructor.
- 1991, Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok) / Guest Professor / Japanese music, ethnomusicology (three months, sponsored by the Japan Foundation visiting professorship program).
- 2001—2005, International Christian University, Humanities Department.
- 1998—2003, Ferris Woman's College / Guest Lecturer / Japanese Music.
- 2002—present, Temple University, Humanities Department / Guest Lecturer / Japanese Music.

Other Professional Experience

- 1988—present, Artistic Director, The International House of Japan, Inc. Duties include arts programming and curating the Creative Artists Exchange Fellowship, sponsored jointly by the National Endowment for the Arts, Japan-US Friendship Commission and the Japanese Cultural Affairs Agency (Bunkachou).
- 1997—2001, *The Japan Times* writer of bi-monthly column on traditional Japanese music.
- 1994—1998, World Shakuhachi Festival, '98 Executive Committee / Senior Executive / Organizing and executing the World Shakuhachi Festival held in 1998 in Boulder, Colorado (sponsored by the Japanese Ministry of Culture, Japan Foundation, Japan-US Friendship Commission, etc).
- 2002—2003, Artistic Director, Fukuoka Gendai Hogaku Festival.
- 2003—present, Senior advisor and guest teacher at Prague Shakuhachi Summer School.
- 2003—present, Guest teacher at Rocky Mountain Shakuhachi Summer Camp.
- 2006—2008, Sydney World Shakuhachi Festival, '08 Executive Committee member.
- 2005—present, Panel member, NEA selection committee for US-Japan Creative Artist Exchange Fellowship Program.

Publications: Books (English and Japanese)

- 2000, March *Shakuhachi Odyssey—Ten no Neiro ni Miserarete* (Winner of 1999 Rennyou-Shou Award for Non-fiction), Kawade Shobo Shinsha.
- 1988 *The Shakuhachi, A Manual for Learning* Ongaku no Tomosha publishers, Tokyo.
- 2005 *Za Shakuhachi; Shakuhachi Ongaku Shutoku no Tebiki* (Japanese version of 1988 publication, *The Shakuhachi*), Ongaku no Tomosha, Tokyo.
- 2005, Feb. *The Single Tone—A Personal Journey into Shakuhachi Music*, Printed Matter Press, Tokyo.
- 2008, June, *The Shakuhachi, A Manual for Learning* (revised and expanded edition), Printed Matter Press, Tokyo.

Publications: Theses & Articles (English and Japanese)

- 1977, Oct. "Kamikara no Izanai--Fue" (The Flute, A Beckoning from the Gods) *Geijutsu Shincho*.
- 1980, Dec. "Hôgaku to Jazu, Fyûshon ni Miru Atarashii Kaiten" (Jazz and Hôgaku, New Development in Fusion), *Jazz Swing Journal*.
- 1981 Spring "Denshi Ongaku no Danshō" (Thoughts on Electronic Music) *Anthropos*.
- 1982 "Shakuhachiwo Kangaeru, Dionyusosu oyobi Apolontekina Hyôgenhō nitsuite" (Dionysian and Appolonian Forms of Expression in Shakuhachi Music) Masters Thesis, Tokyo University of Music and Fine Arts.
- 1983 Spring "Anatomy of a Japanese Festival: The Great Mid-Winter On Matsuri" *Hôgaku* v.1.
- 1984 Autumn "Geijutsu Daigakuwo Kangaeru" (The Role of Art Universities) *Kikkan Hôgaku*.
- 1984 Spring "Hôki kara Gakkihenno Shakuhachi" (The Shakuhachi, From an Instrument of Meditation to an Instrument of Music) *Kikkan Hôgaku*.
- 1984 April/June "The Shakuhachi, Aesthetics of a Single Tone" *The Japan Quarterly*.
- 1985 "Kokyôhe no Ensô Ryokô" (Performing Hôgaku in the United States) *Kikkan Hôgaku*, Spring.
- 1985, July 19th-August 9 "Japan's Music and Education" *Asahi Evening News*.
- 1987 "Boku no Hosomichi, Tabi to Taiken no Danshō" (My 'Narrow Road,' Travels and Experiences in Japan) *Tabi to Rekishi*, Jan.--Dec., (Series).
- 1987 July 24 "Japanese Music Performed in Hamburg" *Asahi Evening News*.
- 1988 July 4 "As One Body: A 'Hadaka' Matsuri" *Mainichi Daily News*.
- 1989 May 8 "A View of a Performer--The Secret of Balance" *Mainichi Daily News*.
- 1990 "Shakuhachi" Liner notes for *Shakuhachi, Traditional Japanese Music*, King Records.
- 1990 April 15 "Seven Sound Wonders of Japan" *Mainichi Daily News*.
- 1991 "Geijutsuhe no Shien to Mushien, Matak Kojintekina Yotsu no Taikendan" (Support and Non-Support of the Arts: Four Personal Experiences) *Kigyô to Bunka no Taiwa*, Tokai University Press.
- 1992 "Ongaku to Wajutsuno Mah--Bunya Sensei no Jôruri" (The Magic of Narration & Music, Bunya Sensei's Joruri) Liner notes for *Okamoto Bunya, Shinnai Bushi Originals*, VI IV, Teichiku Records.
- 1992, Aug. "Plagiarism Versus Creative Quotation in the Music of Thailand and Japan" Paper given for the conference "Modern Art in Thailand 1932--1992, Changing Perspectives" Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok.
- 1992, July "Bankoku no Mikkatsuki no Gaskushi Tachi" (The Crescent Moon Musicians from Bangkok) *Kodô*.
- 1993, July 4 "Shakuhachi no Isan" (The Legacy of the Shakuhachi) *Kômeitô Shinbun*.

- 1993: "Kakure Meijin--Nishimatsu Bun'ichi" (Nishimatsu Bun'ich--The Hidden Master) Liner notes for *Song of the Soul, The Jiuta of Nishimatsu Bun'ichi*, Teichiku Records.
- 1995, Dec. "Wakanomiya" fiction short story featured in *Wingspan*, ANA inflight magazine.
- 2000 August : "Sound Japan" *The Japan Foundation Newsletter* (Vol. XXVIII/No. 1).
- 2003 August : *Japanese Music Notebook*, written, edited and compiled by Christopher Yohmei Blasdel (self-published booklet for university ethnomusicology class).
- 2004-2005: "Sound Japan," a year-long series of monthly articles for the Japan National Chamber of Commerce and Industry magazine, *Shôkôkaigi Geppô*.
- 2005: "Shakuhachi Ongaku—Ten no neiro ni misserarete—" published in *Surugadai Daigaku Rongi*, (Scholastic Annals of Surugadai University).
- 2007-2010, Wrote a series of articles on traditional Japanese performing art published in the International House of Japan Bulletin (biannual).
- 2012: "An Exchange for Fire—The Final Pilgrimage of Poet Craig Arnold", non-fiction short story, from *My Postwar Life—New Writings from Japan and Okinawa*, Chicago Quarterly Review.

Discography:

- 1988: WATCHING THE WAVES, Collaboration with Poet Sam Hamill, Rainshadow Tapes.
- 1990: VOICES FROM WITHIN, VOICES FROM AFAR, THE SHAKUHACHI OF CHRISTOPHER YOHMEI (Teichiku records).
- 1992: NIGHT OF THE GARUDA on CD (Teichiku records, originally released as an LP in 1986).
- 1996: ZEN REVERIES for Shakuhachi & Synthesizer (Moonbridge CDs).
- 1999: HEART OF BAMBOO A collaborative CD with poet Sam Hamill reading his own work with original shakuhachi music by Blasdel (Copper Canyon Press).
- 2001: BAMBOO VOICE, HUMAN FLUTE A collaborative CD with vocalist Mika Kimula (Far East Records).
- 2004: VISIONARY TONES Traditional and Contemporary Kinko Style Shakuhachi Music (Bright One Records, Tokyo).
- 2007: BREATHPLAY A collaborative CD of original music by Christopher Yohmei and composer Byron AuYong.
- 2010: NAVARASA A collaborative CD of original music by Christopher Yohmei and bassist Mark Izu.

Grants, Awards & Scholarships:

- 1978–1980: Japan Ministry of Education Scholarship Award for Graduate Foreign Students (*Mombushô Kokuhî Ryûgakusei Shôgakkin*).
- 1981–1983: Scholarship Award, Tokyû Foundation for Inbound Students.
- 1985: Awarded travel grant from Japan Airlines for concert tour of North American colleges and universities.
- 1985: Chosen by Japan Foundation for series of Japanese government sponsored concerts in China (*Nihon Bunka Kaigai Hakken*).
- 1987, 1989: Awarded travel grant from Lufthansa Airlines for concert tour, "Japanese Music Today" of Germany & Switzerland.
- 1988: Awarded travel grant from The Japan Foundation (*Kaigai kôen Josei*) for concert tour of North American colleges and universities.

- 1991: Awarded Japan Foundation Visiting Professorship (*Nihon Kenkyuka Tanki Hakken Senmonka Hakken*) at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok.
- 1992: Awarded travel grant (*Kokusai Kaigi Shusseki Josei*) from The Japan Foundation for participation in seminar "Modern Art in Thailand 1932--1992, Changing Perspectives" Faculty of Fine and Applied Arts, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok.
- 1992: Grant awarded for recital (*Jikûshô*) from the Japan Arts Fund (*Geijutsu Bunka Shinkô Kikin*).
- 1995: Travel/ performance grant awarded (Japan Foundation: Performing Arts Program) for introducing traditional and contemporary Japanese music at selected Japan-American Societies across the US.
- 1996: Invited participant in Atlantic Center for the Arts Japan/US Exchange Residency Program.
- 1996: Performance Grant from Asahi Breweries.
- 1997: Awarded residency at Centrum Artists' Residency, Port Townsend, Washington.
- 1998: Award Asian Cultural Council grant for five-month research into the traditional music of Thailand.
- 1999: Awarded Ren'nyo Prize for Non Fiction work, *Shakuhachi Odyssey*.
- 2000: Awarded performance grant from Japan Steel Cultural Association.
- 2008, April: Awarded grant from Melburn G. Glasscock Center for Humanities Research, Texas A&M University, to give a public lecture entitled: "Seeking Spirituality in the Performing Arts of Japan: Sound as a Pathway to Self-Knowledge."
- 2010: Travel/ performance grant awarded (Japan Foundation: Performing Arts Program) for Prague/ European Shakuhachi Festival.
- 2011: *Jinrai*—*Christopher Yohmei Shakuhachi Recital* chosen for inclusion in the 2011 Autumn Arts Festival, sponsored by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Japan.

Membership in Professional Societies

- Tôyô Ongakugakkai (Society for Research in Asiatic Music)
- Nihon Sankyoku Kyôkai (performer's society for traditional Japanese music)
- Trustee, Chikumeisha (Shakuhachi Guild)
- The International House of Japan, Inc.
- Trustee, Kodô Cultural Foundation
- East West Center Alumni Association
- Third degree black-belt, Aikido