

Christopher Yohmei Blasdel began the shakuhachi and studies of Japanese music in 1972 with Goro Yamaguchi. In 1982 he received an MFA in ethnomusicology from Tokyo University of Fine Arts and received his professional name “Yohmei” from Yamaguchi in 1984. Performing in Japan and around the world, Blasdel maintains a balance between traditional shakuhachi music, modern compositions and cross-genre work with musicians, dancers, poets and visual artists.

Blasdel’s discography includes *Navarasa*, a collaboration with shakuhachi and acoustic bass (2010), *Breath Play* (2007), *Visionary Tones* (2005) and several other CDs of traditional and contemporary music. He has composed and performed music for NHK documentaries and various films. He co-organized the Boulder World Shakuhachi Festival ’98, the Sydney Shakuhachi Festival, 2008 and is senior artistic advisor to the yearly Prague Shakuhachi Festival. His writing include the most comprehensive and best-selling English language shakuhachi instruction book, *The Shakuhachi—A Manual for Learning* (Printed Matter Press, 2008) and a semi-autobiographical essay, *The Single Tone—A Personal Journey through Shakuhachi Music* (Printed Matter Press, 2005—originally published in Japanese as *Shakuhachi Odessei* by Kawade Publishers, 2000 and winner of the prestigious Rennyō Award for non-fiction), details his experiences learning and playing the shakuhachi in Japan and around the world. He presently teaches Japanese music at Temple University in Tokyo and is Artistic Director of the International House of Japan, Inc. Blasdel holds a third-degree black belt in Aikido and resides in Tokyo.