

Christopher Yohmei Blasdel graduated with a BFA degree from Earlham College in 1974. While an exchange student in Japan, he began the shakuhachi and studies of Japanese music in 1972 with Living National Treasure Goro Yamaguchi. In 1982 he received an MFA in ethnomusicology from Tokyo University of Fine Arts and was accredited as a *shihan* shakuhachi master by Yamaguchi. In his musical activities, Christopher balances traditional shakuhachi music, modern compositions, improvisation and cross-genre work with musicians, dancers, poets and visual artists. A selection of his CDs, including traditional shakuhachi *honkyoku* meditative pieces along with contemporary music can be found on Spotify, Apple Music and other streaming services. He performs around the world and has guest lectured at such institutions as Earlham College, Chulalongkorn University (Bangkok), Texas A&M University, University of Washington, Charles University (Prague), Cal Arts, International Christian University (Tokyo), University of Maryland and Temple University. Christopher has composed and performed music for NHK documentaries and various films and was the Artistic Director of the International House of Japan from 1987 to 2013. He co-organized the Boulder World Shakuhachi Festival '98 and assisted the Sydney World Shakuhachi Festival in 2008. Christopher also co-founded the annual Prague Shakuhachi Festival. His semi-autobiographical book, *The Single Tone—A Personal Journey through Shakuhachi Music* (Printed Matter Press, 2005) and *The Shakuhachi, A Manual for Learning* (1988) are two of the most important English language resource books on the shakuhachi. Christopher presently lectures at University of Hawai'i, Mānoa and holds a fifth-degree black belt in Aikido.

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