

## Room Four: Instruments

### **N-107: *Kodō* (Drum Shell), With painted decoration**

This drum shell was probably used in early drama-dance performances called *gigaku*. The surface is decorated with lotuses and a stylized floral motif (*hōsōge*). Although most of the color has flaked off, what remains suggests the splendor of the original decoration, much like another drum shell (N-108) in the collection. These two pieces are valuable examples from the Nara period (710–794).

### **N-111: *Keirō Kodō* (Drum Shell)**

The *keirōko* is a double-headed drum that was hung from the player's neck and played with drumsticks when performing traditional Japanese *gagaku* court music. This drum shell was made from a single piece of paulownia wood and retains traces of lacquer and paint on its surface. The shape is close to a perfect sphere and shows an ancient appearance, suggesting that it was made in the Kamakura period.

### **N-105: *Ōteki* (Horizontal Flute)**

Similar to the horizontal shakuhachi flute, this vertical flute was used to perform an early style of court music from Tang-Dynasty China (*Tōgaku*). It has seven finger holes and is made up of two pieces of bamboo that are connected at a point between the finger holes and the mouthpiece. The body of the flute, except for the sections around the holes, has been tightly wound in bark from a cherry tree.

### **N-106-1: *Kakko* (Drum), With painted decoration**

*Kakko* are wooden drums with drum skins on both ends fastened down with cords. The drums were placed on wooden stands and played using drumsticks in both hands. *Kakko* were used to perform traditional Japanese *gagaku* court music. The surface of this particular example is adorned with Chinese lions and peonies.

### **N-110: Stand for *Kakko***

This wooden stand is coated in red lacquer. The *kakko* on display nearby (N-106-1) fits into the two depressions in the top surface, suggesting that these two objects originally formed a set.

### **N-103: 6 Bridges for a *Koto* (Stringed Musical Instrument)**

Bridges like these were used to string and tune zithers instruments (*koto*). These particular bridges were most likely made for a twelve-stringed, Korean-style zither. Their surfaces are coated in lacquer and finely cut gold leaf was used to create a design of leaves and to add gold to the upper rims.