

## Room Four: Musical Instruments

### N-107: Painted Drum Shell

This wooden drum shell was probably used in masked dance performances called *gigaku*. Traces of patterns with lotuses and *hōsōge* flowers can be seen on the surface. Although most of the coloring has flaked off, the remaining colors suggest 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-108: Painted Drum Shell

Like N-107, this wooden drum shell was also likely used in *gigaku* performances. The central section has lotus motifs while the other sections are decorated with *hōsōge* flowers and stylized cloud patterns. Its voluminous, stately form is characteristic of drums from the Nara period (710–794).

### N-111: Drum (*keirō-ko*) Shell

The *keirō-ko* is a type of double-headed drum that was hung from the musician's neck and played with drumsticks when performing courtly *gagaku* music. This drum shell was made from a single piece of paulownia wood and retains traces of lacquer and paint on its surface. The spherical shape is a feature of *keirō-ko* drums from ancient times.

### N-106-1: Drum (*Kakko*)

*Kakko* are wooden drums with 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 in *gagaku*, a courtly performing art. This *kakko* drum is decorated with lions and peonies.

### N-110: Drum (*Kakko*) Stand

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

### N-106- : Drum (*Kakko*) Stand with Paulownias and Vines

This stand was used for one of the nearby drums (N-106-1) during performances. The surface is coated with black lacquer, with motifs of paulownias and vines rendered in metallic powders set in lacquer (*maki-e*). This stand was likely made specifically for this drum during the Edo period (1603–1868), when decorative designs like this were in style.

### N-104: Vertical Flute (*Shakuhachi*)

The *shakuhachi* is a vertical flute that was used in *tōgaku*, a courtly performing art introduced from Tang-dynasty China (618–907). It has a semicircular mouthpiece with five finger holes in the top and one in the bottom. Similar examples of ancient musical instruments are also found in the Shōsōin Imperial Repository in Nara.

**N-105: Horizontal Flute (*Ōteki*)**

Together with the *shakuhachi* flute, this side-blown flute was used in *tōgaku*, a courtly performing art introduced from Tang-dynasty China (618–907). It has seven finger holes and is made from two pieces of bamboo that are connected at the point between the finger holes and the mouthpiece. The body of the flute, except for the sections around the holes, has been tightly wound with cherry-tree bark.

**N-105--1: Case for Horizontal Flute (*Ōteki*) with Three-Comma Crests**

This is a wooden case for the horizontal flute on display nearby (N-105). The design of three-comma crests is rendered in gold powder against a black-lacquer background. A text from the late Edo period (1603–1868) suggests it was a treasured possession of Emperor Reigen (1654–1732).

**N-105--2: Box for Horizontal Flute (*Ōteki*)**

Coated in black lacquer, this wooden box has an inscription in gold powder that says "Flute, Hōryūji" on the lid. This box was likely donated by Keishōin (1627–1705), the mother of the fifth Tokugawa shogun, Tsunayoshi (1646–1709).

**N-103: Bridges for a Japanese Zither (*Koto*)**

Bridges like these were used to tune zither instruments such as *koto* and *sō*. These particular bridges were probably made for a twelve-stringed, Korean-style zither. They are coated in lacquer, with finely cut gold foil used to decorate their surfaces with leaf shapes and outline the rims of the upper sections.