

## Poetry & Jazz

### Japanese poetry, theater, music, sushi, sake & plum wine

Saturday, April 11, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

Gualala Arts Center

Poetry & Jazz continues the theme of International Flavors by presenting a selection of Japan's many poetry forms. Dressed in kimono, Mariko Kitakubo of Tokyo will perform her own tanka, and Linda Galloway will recite Amelia Fielden's translations.

This pair will be accompanied on the koto (harp) by Shirley Muramoto and Karl Young on the shakuhachi (bamboo flute). Though both musicians are classically trained, they have a spirited interest in jazz that will be revealed in their instrumental duet composed by Karl. Renee Owen will read her haibun and be accompanied by her husband, Brian Owen, on the shakuhachi.

After intermission, the feature of the evening will be a butoh theater piece composed and danced by Don McLeod, master of a school for butoh training in Los Angeles, using the haiku of Basho as translated by Jane Reichhold.

In coordination with the Poetry & Jazz event, there will be an exhibit of works combining Japanese poetry and art in the Coleman Auditorium from April 1st through April 29, in celebration of April as Poetry Month.

**Mariko Kitakubo** is a young woman living in Tokyo who has published several books of tanka - the oldest poetry form in the world that is still actively written. Her books *Cicada Forest* and *On This Same Star* have been translated into English by award-winning Australian translator, Amelia Fielden. Mariko has performed in the prestigious Toto-kai Horinouchi Noh Theater, Tokyo and been on tour to festivals and poetry gatherings on the West Coast.

**Shirley Kazuyo Muramoto**, a native of Oakland, California, continues a long tradition of Japanese koto music in America. From childhood, Muramoto was fortunate to receive training on various styles of koto music from such masters as Kazue Kudo, Tomoko

Sunazaki, Yoko Gates and from her mother, Madame Kazuko Muramoto. In 1976, Muramoto received her Shihan degree (Instructor's license) with Yushusho (highest ranking honors) at the Chikushi School in Fukuoka, Japan.

**Karl Young**, who divides his time between living here on the coast and in San Francisco, is well-known for his performances and lectures on the shakuhachi at Gualala Arts. He works and performs with groups of musicians on taiko drums, koto, shamisen and other flutes. He has studied with shakuhachi masters in Japan and in the States.

**Renee Owen** and her husband **Brian Owen** have done a series of readings at poetry gatherings at events along the coast. Renee first studied haiku but has now expanded her interest into haibun - a Japanese poetry form that combines prose writing with haiku. It is this style used by the master Basho in his most famous book, *Oku no Hosomichi - Back Roads to the Far North*.



**Don McLeod** was born in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. He grew up as an only child on a small rural farm near Mendocino. He studied movement and theatre at Pasadena Playhouse, School of Performing Arts San Diego, and the Banff School of Fine Arts in Canada.

McLeod's dynamic style of physical theatre and dance was developed by his training with a number of the world's leading artists including Marcel Marceau, Etienne Decroux, Jerzy Grotowski and Sankai Juku.

Advance tickets are \$20, and, if available, \$5 more day of the performance and include sushi and plum wine, sake or tea for a completely Asian experience. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Program begins at 7:30 p.m.