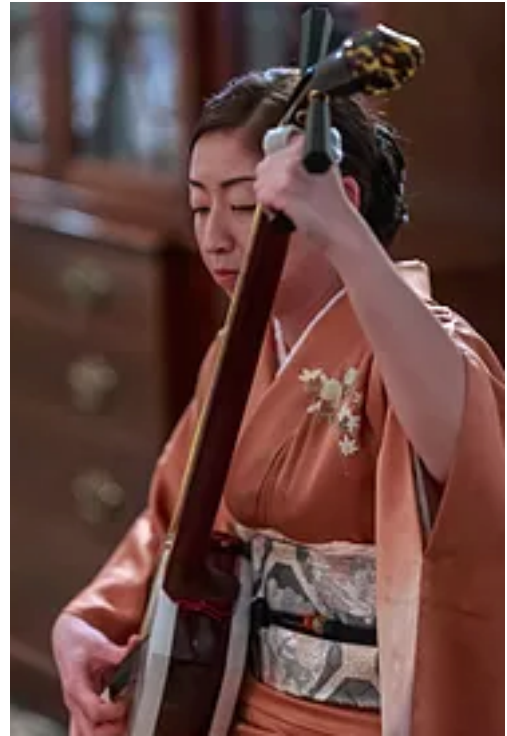


Kanako Ford: A certified Japanese *Koto/* *Shami sen instructor (Shihan) from Seiha Hogakukai. She started taking Koto lessons at the age of 12. Obtained Jun-shihan teaching license at the age of 16. She is originally Miyako, Iwate.

Moved to North America at the age of 18 to enroll at a college. While living in Salt Lake City, Utah for over 20 years, she organized several cultural events to bring more diversity to the community. She also established Utah's only Koto school "Wasatch Koto School" as well as a Japanese cultural performing group "Sounds of Japan." Moved to Raleigh, North Carolina in June 2018. Currently, being actively engaged in musical activities in Utah, San Francisco, California and North Carolina.



*Koto: A traditional Japanese stringed musical instrument like a harp.

**Shami sen: A traditional Japanese three stringed musical instrument like a banjo or guitar