

# European Shakuhachi Summerschool 2009 in Leiden.

This year a European Shakuhachi Summer School will be held in Leiden, the Netherlands.

It will be the first Shakuhachi Summer School in Holland and will be organised by the **Dutch Shakuhachi Society KAITO** together with the **European Shakuhachi Society**.

**The dates of the Summer School will be 23, 24, 25 and 26 July.**

## Leiden: 2009 Japanjaar.

Leiden is an old Dutch city, not too far from the coast of the North Sea, with a long past in the history of the Netherlands. It is located not too far from Schiphol, the national airport (about 20 minutes by train) and other important Dutch cities like Amsterdam (30 minutes), The Hague (20 minutes), Rotterdam (30 minutes) and Utrecht (45 minutes).

Also there is a long historic connection between Leiden and Japan and Japanese culture.

For example, Leiden has the 'Sieboldhuis'. This house is where Siebold showed his collections of Japanese objects and artefacts as early as 1837 to an interested public. Now, after 150 years, his former house is the location of the first official Japanese centre. (<http://www.sieboldhuis.org/>). (Philipp Franz Balthasar von Siebold (1796 - 1866) was an originally German, later to become a Dutch physician. He emerged as the first European to teach Western medicine in Japan and is therefore well-known to most Japanese).

Also in Leiden is the National Museum of Ethnology

(<http://www.volkenkunde.nl/index.aspx?lang=en>), famous for its impressive collection of Japanese artefacts and cultural objects. Then there is the University of Leiden - the oldest university in the Netherlands. The university was founded in 1575 by Prince William of Orange, leader of the Dutch Revolt in the Eighty Years' War.

This year, 2009, is a special "Japan year" in Leiden, because of the special relationship between Leiden and Japan, based on 400 years of trade relations: see <http://www.400jaarhandel.nl/> (See <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leiden>).

In Leiden there is also a Japanese Soto Zen Meditation Centre, called Suiren-Ji (see <http://www.zencentrum.nl/>)

## The Dutch Shakuhachi Society KAITO.

The summerschool will be organised by the Dutch Shakuhachi Society KAITO. This shakuhachi society was started in the 1997 by Kees Kort.

Kees Kort: "I started playing the shakuhachi at about the age of 40. I remember when I was still a little boy about 7 or 8 years of age, I heard the shakuhachi for the first time, and its sound stayed in my head. I was not raised learning to play any musical instrument, but when I was about 17 years old I was jealous of my friends who could play so many instruments. So I decided I wanted to learn to play flutes, especially the Indian flute whose sound I loved so much. Later, when I was nearly 40, I discovered where I could purchase a shakuhachi. My first shakuhachi was a wooden one, manufactured by the Japanese Zen On company. From the first moment I owned this shakuhachi I felt very enthusiastic about it. I had only a fingering chart, so I learned to play each pitch as well as I could. Later I learned that there existed an International Shakuhachi Society in England. When I became a member I found out books were available to teach you to play. This is how my road to blowing zen started..."

After some time I decided to start a Dutch Shakuhachi Society. My idea was to build a kind of organisation, or platform where people interested in the shakuhachi could find information and meet others with the same interest in this Japanese instrument.

From the moment the Dutch Shakuhachi Society, 'KAITO', started to exist we had contact from shakuhachi players in different countries all over the world. We contacted Yoshikazu Iwamoto, who was living in England. He suggested I buy shakuhachi made by Tom Deaver in Japan. So I did and that is how the contact between Tom Deaver and the Dutch Shakuhachi Society started. He came over to Europe and visited my house (I was still living in Katwijk then, about 15 kilometres from Leiden). I organised small house concerts for friends and interested people. Later a woman



from Australia, Vineta Lagzdina, born in Lithuania came to visit me and again I organised a small house concert for her.

## Location of the Summer School

The Summer School will be based at 2 venues in the centre of Leiden. First, a building called “het Leidse Volkshuis”, where registration and all full-group meetings will take place.

Secondly, the music school of Leiden, called BplusC. This is on the Rapenburg, in the centre of Leiden. This is where daily workshops and lessons will take place.



## The Teachers.

The following teachers will join the 2009 European Shakuhachi Summer School:

### Yoshio Kurahashi:

The only teacher coming from Japan. Yoshio Kurahashi visited the Netherlands a number of times. He also gave workshops for the students of the Dutch Shakuhachi Society KAITO.

“Kurahashi sensei is one of the great living masters of shakuhachi. He has been very interested in the spread of shakuhachi outside of Japan and travels to America regularly to perform, teach classes and offer workshops.”



### Gunnar Linder:

Gunnar Jinmei Linder started studying the kinko style of shakuhachi in 1985, and since 1986 under direct guidance of Gorô Yamaguchi (1933-99; Designated National Treasure), the head of the Chikumeisha Guild of Kinko-ryû Shakuhachi.



## Horacio Curti:

Horacio Curti was a jazz saxophone player when he encountered the Shakuhachi for the first time while travelling in the Himalayan region of India. He decided to go to Japan to begin his study of the instrument with Kakizakai Kaoru sensei.



## Vlastislav Matousek:

Doc. Vlastislav Matoušek Ph.D. (1948) studied Composition and post-gradual courses in Musical Theory at the Academy of Performing Arts, the Faculty of Music in Prague where he has been teaching ethnomusicology since 1991. There he received his Ph.D. degree in theory of composition. Whilst spending six months as a fellow of the Japan Foundation, he studied *shakuhachi* with Master *Kifu Mitsuhashi*, and also studied Japanese Traditional Music with Prof. *Osamu Yamaguti* in Japan (1996).

Vlastislav Matousek has organized shakuhachi meetings and courses in Prague for many years. In 2007 and in 2008, Prague hosted shakuhachi summer schools, with teachers such as Kifu Mitsuhashi, Christopher Blasdel and Kees Kort. In 2004 Matousek visited the Netherlands for a concert in Amsterdam. He also gave a workshop for Dutch shakuhachi students.



## Steve Cohn:

A native of San Francisco, he performed as a blues pianist in Los Angeles, where he began studying the shakuhachi at UCLA.

In 2008, Steve Cohn took part in a multi media Jazz festival in the Netherlands as a jazz shakuhachi player. He played with Jazz saxophone player Michael Moore.

He also gave a workshop for students of the Dutch shakuhachi society.



## Tilo Burdach:

Tilopa, a one time social scientist who did research on Latin America, has studied quite a wide range of different musical instruments since early childhood (recorder, flutes, violin, guitar, piano, dillruba, svarmandal, santoor etc), but found his real love about 20 years ago when he met with the kyotaku and his flute master Koku Nishimura in Kumamoto/Japan. Since that time he has studied traditional 'honkyoku' music with his master and Koryo Nishimura, the son of Koku sensei. A never-ending process, although he is playing the same songs over and over

again... At the same time he has been experimenting with combining the kyotaku with other western and eastern instruments (see his CD's). He lives with his wife and four cats in an old farmhouse in the countryside of Bavaria/Germany where he is working as a kyotaku maker , kyotaku teacher and as a T'ai Chi teacher. Occasionally he gives concerts in several European countries and Germany.



## Kees Kort

Born in Bussum, the Netherlands in 1951. Started to play the shakuhachi in 1989. Had lessons from Akikazu Nakamura, Ichiro Seki, Yoshikazu Iwamoto, Yoshio Kurahashi. Plays many traditional flutes from different countries, such as ney, qawwal, zampona, toyo, suling, bansuri, kalyuka, etc. Started the Dutch Shakuhachi Society KAITO in 1997.



## Important information for interested students:

### The European Shakuhachi Summer School 2009 (ESS09):

- **Place:** Leiden, the Netherlands
  - Muziekschool BplusC  
Rapenburg 22  
2311 EW Leiden  
Tel: 0900 23 23 000
  - Het Leidse Volkshuis  
Apothekersdijk 33a,  
2312 DD Leiden  
Tel: 0900 23 23 000
- **Date:** 23, 24, 25 and 26 July 2009  
(Arriving date: 22 July)
- **Programme:**
  - Daily workshops in the morning and afternoon.
    - 08:30 Hrs: Ro buki; meeting together in het Leidse Volkshuis; announcements, etc.
    - 09:00 Hrs: Workshop I
    - 11:00 Hrs: Workshop II
    - 12:30 Hrs: Break (lunch)
    - 14:00 Hrs: Workshop III

- 16:00 Hrs: Workshop IV
- 18:00 Hrs: Dinner

(The exact schedule will be published later)

- In the evening concerts.
  - 20:00 Hrs: concert
  - The concerts will be in different locations in Leiden.
- The programme will have a focus on traditional Japanese music, Honkyoku, but also on improvisation and other musical directions.
- There will be lectures about the komuso (by Matthi Forrer – curator of Japanese art National Museum of Ethnology in Leiden) and about the important Honkyoku piece Kyorei (by Vlastislav Matousek). Also a lecture and small concert by Frans Moussault: a Dutch bass clarinet player who works together with Ray Jin, the grandson of Jin Nyodo. This lecture will be about the cooperation between Frans Moussault and Ray Jin, the Suizen tradition and musical backgrounds.
- There will be a special beginner's class.
- On request, teachers will be available for one-to-one private lessons or consultations.
- For those who wish to meditate in the morning before the programme, there will be an arrangement with the Soto Zen mediation Centre SUIREN-JI. This centre is not too far from the main location.
- **How to get to Leiden:**
  - It is easy to get to Leiden.
    - By plane: It is not far from the national airport Schiphol. From Schiphol to Leiden by train is 20 minutes. (All kind of information about flying and about the airport you can find on <http://www.schiphol.nl/> ).
    - By train: you can find information about travelling by train in Holland on <http://www.ns.nl/cs/Satellite/travellers>. Leiden has the second biggest train station in Holland and the city is easy to be reached from all parts of Holland.
    - By car: you can reach Leiden by car from A4 from Amsterdam and The Hague.
- **Accommodation:**
  - In Leiden are many hotels. See for instance [www.hotels.nl/nl/leiden/](http://www.hotels.nl/nl/leiden/) or [www.WeekendCompany.nl/Leiden](http://www.WeekendCompany.nl/Leiden) if you want to choose a hotel yourself.
  - We have an agreement with 2 hotels:
    - In the Hotel Het Witte Huis you can stay on a single room for €65 per night. In a 4-person room one pays €35 per night. (This hotel is about 25 minutes walking distant from the main location of the summerschool. But there is a direct bus connection (10 minutes) and there will be cars for necessary transportation)  
Address:  
Paviljoen Wilhelmina/Het Witte Huis  
Wilhelminapark 33  
2342 AE Oegstgeest  
tel: +31 (0) 71 - 515 3853  
See: <http://www.hotelhetwittehuis.com/>
    - In hotel Golden Tulip Leiden Centre you can stay in a room for 2 persons for €55 and in a room for 4 persons for €45 for 1 night. This hotel is about 10 minutes walking from the main location.  
Address:  
Hotel Golden Tulip Leiden Centre - Zuid Holland  
Schipholweg 3  
2316 XB Leiden  
tel: +31 71 4083500  
See: <http://www.goldentulipleidencentre.nl/?Language=EN>
  - If you are interested in staying in one of these hotels, please let us know when you send your registration.
  - For "low budget students" there are some places to stay available with guest families. If you are interested, let us know.

- **Meals:** Leiden has many good quality restaurants with food from all around the world. The organisers of the summer school are still trying to find a way for all participants to meet together for meals. Information on this will be available soon. Costs will be affordable.
  
- **Price of the summerschool:**
  - €250 for non-members
  
  - €200 for members of the Dutch Shakuhachi Society KAITO or of the European Shakuhachi Society
  
  - To be paid to bank account: send an email to [kees@shakuhachi.nl](mailto:kees@shakuhachi.nl), please. You will be emailed the account details back.
  
  - Paying by using PayPal is also possible. Send an email to: [kees@shakuhachi.nl](mailto:kees@shakuhachi.nl)
  
- **Any questions:** please email [kees@shakuhachi.nl](mailto:kees@shakuhachi.nl)