



KotoKottoN

Koto Ensemble NUS

It's looking for new members!



Koto is one of Japanese traditional music instruments which is similar to Chinese *gu zheng*. KotoKottoN, NUS Koto ensemble, was established in February 2009 and is now looking for new members. The supervisor of KotoKottoN is Ms. Kitai, Japanese language instructor of Centre for Language Studies and she is also a master of koto in Sawai Koto School (沢井箏曲院 サライウキョクイノ) <http://www.soukyokuin.com/>, Tokyo. The venue is supported by the Centre for Language Studies. All NUS students and NUS community members are welcome to KotoKottoN!

For this vacation, lessons are conducted on **Mondays 7-9pm and Fridays 7-9pm** and optional practice on **Saturdays 10.30am-4.30pm at AS4/0601-03** for all members. You may practise individually anytime during the vacation upon application to Kitai sensei. Lesson fees are free for NUS students. Members are requested to commit their time twice a week. Please note that this is not a module related activity and attendance is not compulsory but is requested as an ensemble member.

At the moment, eleven pieces of koto are available: eight from Ms. Kitai and three from Department of Japanese Studies, FASS. Members need to carry koto from AS4 5th storey to the lesson venue and return them. Please note that koto is a valuable instrument and it is important to take good care of koto and make sure they are returned in good condition every time. A member is not requested to purchase a koto. Some second hand tsume plectrums are available for first-time members. However, if a member wants to continue koto practice permanently, s/he is expected to purchase a personal set of tsume. The prices of a set of tsume are ranged from approximately S\$40 to 200. Prices are subject to change depending on exchange rate, postal fee and its material. Other equipment such as koto stand, music book, music stand, tuner, metronome, etc is available from Ms. Kitai to share. More than one hundred koto music CDs are also available for loan from Ms. Kitai.

A member is expected to learn contemporary koto music, mainly from Sawai music, as well as traditional koto music after the 17th century. Although not in good conditions, some Sawai music is available from <http://www.soukyokuin.com/TADAO.HTM> >Discography >音源(抜粋)SOUNDDATA. Do not go to the English page, as they are available only from Japanese page. More samples can be found at http://www.komuso.com/people/Sawai_Tadao.html as well. A member is also able to audition and obtain koto certificates from 沢井箏曲院 if s/he wishes.

For more details, please visit <http://kotokotton.wordpress.com>. If you want to join KotoKottoN, please fill up the form on the website. For enquiries, please send e-mail to nus.kotokotton@gmail.com or clskita@nus.edu.sg. Hope you enjoy the koto music!

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