

Performance Notes for Twelfth-Century *Saibara*

Voice

- Alter octave of pitches as desired

Shakubyōshi [wooden clappers]

- Accented notes should be significantly louder than unaccented notes

Woodwinds (*Hichiriki* [double-reed flute], *Ryūteki* [transverse flute], & *Shō* [mouth organ])

- Alter octave of pitches as desired
- Ornament melody as desired with rhythmic figures similar to those in the koto and biwa lines
- *Shō* plays melodic pitches, not chords

Koto [zither]

- Tune koto strings to b, e, g, a, b, d¹, e¹, f^{#1}, a¹, b¹, c^{#1}, e¹, f^{#1} [Helmholtz pitch notation]
- Pluck all notes with the thumb unless otherwise noted
- The up-bow marking (v) signifies a backwards/reversed plucking of the string by extending rather than flexing the thumb
- When two notes are plucked at once, the upper string is plucked by the thumb, and the lower string is plucked by the middle finger or by the index and middle fingers together
- Notes marked with a 2 above them are to be plucked by the index finger; notes marked with a 3 are to be plucked by the middle finger
- Slurred notes joined by straight lines indicate a slurred pitch change technique in which the left hand depresses the string to the left of the bridge before the string is plucked by the right hand, raising the pitch a half-step before the note is sounded; the left hand then releases the string, which lowers the pitch by half a step – the pitch can be thus raised and lowered multiple times to create a slurred mordent or trill
- Small handwritten notes signify glissandi, which pitches are to be played by the thumb within the space of a single beat

Biwa [lute]

- Tune biwa strings to E, B, e, a [Helmholtz pitch notation]
 - Note: The difference between the open string and the first fret is a whole step; the difference between frets 1 and 2, 2 and 3, and 3 and 4 is a half-step each
- Pluck all notes with the plectrum (*bachi*) held in the right hand, except when otherwise noted
- The up-bow marking (v) signifies a backwards/reversed plucking of the string by an upward (rather than downward) stroke of the plectrum
- An accent marking (>) means to pluck the pitch on two separate strings in unison
- An open circle marking (°) means to play the pitch on an open string
- Pluck the first note of each slurred note grouping with the plectrum; all subsequent notes of the slurred note grouping are plucked by the fingers of the left hand instead of the plectrum