

# ALTERNATE

Kojiro Umezaki - Shakuhachi and Technology

Tradition and technology alternate in this program of pieces from the classical repertoire of the shakuhachi (Japanese end-blown flute) and original works incorporating technology.

**Wednesday, October 15**

**8 p.m.**

**Free Admission**

**Winifred Smith Hall**

**Claire Trevor School of the Arts**

**University of California, Irvine**

Kojiro Umezaki grew up in Tokyo, Japan where he began studying Western flute and the shakuhachi. His career encompasses both traditional and technology-based music and a range of electronic media. "My mother is from Denmark and my father is Japanese. My multinational background may be one of the reasons why I don't limit myself to the traditional repertoire. In all my work, I try to put the shakuhachi in a more contemporary, musically diverse context. Hopefully this work can become part of the evolutionary process of the instrument."



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**Ko** is Assistant Professor of Music at the University of California, Irvine. He performs regularly with the Silk Road Ensemble and the Montreal-based jazz trio, Beat in Fractions. His recordings are available on the Sony BMG, Healthy Boys, and Smithsonian Folkways labels, among others.

The **shakuhachi** – Japanese end-blown bamboo flute – is played by blowing air across the beveled edge at the top of the instrument, while covering and uncovering the holes with fingertips. Introduced to Japan in the 7th century, it has been used to create music for Zen Buddhist meditation. The sounds produced by the shakuhachi range from soft whispers to strong piercing tones, often intended to reflect natural phenomena such as falling leaves, wind, and the cries and gestures of animals.

date

**10/15/08**

location

**WINIFRED SMITH  
HALL, UCI**

time

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Presented by the Gassman Electronic Music Series.