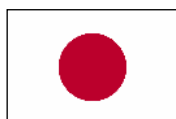


Edinburgh International Festival 2012



Gagaku 雅楽

Imperial Court Music and Dance of Japan

(In cooperation with the Consulate General of Japan)



Performed by the Musicians of the Imperial Household Agency, Tokyo

Gagaku is **the world's oldest** living orchestral tradition. This music of unforgettable elegance and beauty dates back to **5th century Japan**. Performed by a powerful ensemble of wind instruments, plucked strings and deeply resonant percussion, its slow-moving melodies and exquisite harmonies suggest a serene world of ancient ritual and contemplation.

Gagaku performances are as arresting to watch as they are to hear. Dancers interpret the stately music with stylised movements, and the musicians' dramatic costumes and the dazzling decor are just as important as the astonishing music.

The musicians of the Imperial Household in Tokyo are Japan's most exceptional players. One of Japan's most ancient performing groups, the ensemble was designated **by UNESCO as an Intangible Heritage of Humanity** in 2009, its performances usually reserved for the private ceremonies of the Japanese imperial family. This is a very rare chance to hear one of the pinnacles of Japanese culture in a wide-ranging programme of traditional court music and dance, its only performance in the UK.

Date : **Wednesday 22 August 7.30pm**

Venue : **Festival Theatre, Edinburgh**

Tickets : £30 £27 £22 £17 £12

Time : 2 hours 10 minutes approximately

Book : Online www.eif.co.uk/gagaku

Hub Tickets, The Hub, Castlehill Tel:0131 473 2000