





## **RAKUGO**

Rakugo is a comic storytelling art that has been entertaining the Japanese for over 400 years and is still widely popular in Japan today.

The Rakugo storyteller single-handedly creates the humorous side of traditional Japan, playing any number of characters such as Samurai, Geisha, Merchant, Burglar, Child or Drunkard, wearing kimono and sitting on a small cushion using only two small props: a Japanese fan and a hand towel.

The audience is encouraged to use their imagination while listening to Rakugo. Currently, it is said that 800 professional Rakugo performers exist in Japan.



# **PERFORMERS**

#### Katsura Kaishi

Katsura Kaishi has performed in 20 countries around the world. His English Rakugo stories are so popular they are featured in English textbooks for junior high school students in Japan

#### **Katsura Asakichi**

Katsura Asakichi started as an apprentice to Rakugo master Katsura Kiccho in 1993. Now, he performs classic Rakugo stories as well as his own original English Rakugo stories.

#### Katsura Fukuryu

Katsura Fukuryu was born in Winnipeg, Canada. He was inspired by Rakugo and started English Rakugo in 2016. He has performed throughout Japan and in Las Vegas, San Francisco and Honolulu.

### Hayashiya Emimaru

Hayashiya Emimaru is famous for performing with Yose props. He often tells his humorous stories with a traditional mask and Yose fans.

#### Akatsuki Anko

Akatsuki Anko performed in the well-known performance group "Kinoshita Circus" for 14 years. Her most famous act showcases her foot juggling.