

The University of Colorado Denver College of Arts & Media and the Consulate-General of Japan present

TSUGARU SHAMISEN

*featuring the Monsters of Shamisen –
Kevin Kmetz and Mike Penny*



Monday, February 21, 2011
King Center Concert Hall
855 Larence Way on the Auraria Campus
7:30pm

FREE ADMISSION
303.352.3500

THE MONSTERS OF SHAMISEN IN CONCERT

The Monsters of Shamisen – Kevin Kmetz and Mike Penny – are the first non-Japanese Tsugaru Shamisen performers ever to have participated and placed in the national tsugaru shamisen tournaments held annually in Tsugaru region of northern Japan. Kmetz and Penny have performed throughout Japan and the USA in a great number and variety of musical groups.

Having both come from studying western music, Kmetz and Penny have made a name for themselves adapting musical styles from numerous countries (among them western classical music) to the shamisen while simultaneously integrating many traditional shamisen playing techniques.

Monsters of Shamisen offers audiences the most exciting and innovative example of modern Tsugaru shamisen in the world. Pooling their respective musical backgrounds, Monsters draw inspiration from a wide variety of musical styles including baroque/classical, Balkan gypsy, American bluegrass, Irish folk music, and even modern rock/pop. To see this ensemble live is to experience one of the most unforgettable fusions of not only East and West but of past and future.

This event is sponsored by the University of Colorado Denver, College of Arts & Media, and the Consulate-General of Japan.



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