

# Noriko Tadano

## WORKSHOPS/PERFORMANCE

### TSUGARU SHAMISEN



Noriko Tadano has been playing Shamisen since she was 6 years old. She has performed in Japan, Europe, Canada, Tonga, Fiji and at festivals and events all over Australia.

The shamisen is an instrument that has been around for a long time in Japan. It first came to Japan from China via Okinawa. People in Japan developed their own way of playing it. In the Edo period (1603 – 1868), it was used as background music for Kabuki theatre. Its popularity soared as a result and it became one of the main instruments of Japan's classical music; now it is also used in jazz and popular music.

Noriko Tadano performs in Australia with many top jazz and blues performers. She has played rock and roll on the TV program "Spicks and Specks", and was even a finalist in *Australia's Got Talent*.

#### Performances / Workshops

Noriko Tadano plays both traditional Japanese folk songs (Minyo) as well as original pieces on the Tsugaru Shamisen (Japanese Banjo). While traditional Minyo depicts the life and feelings of 'older' Japan, centring around the themes of love, family and a close connection with nature, Noriko's original pieces explore feelings and experiences through melodic notes and heart pounding beats.

In the workshops, Noriko explains and demonstrates the Shamisen in more depth, and shows students its many characteristics. Students will have the opportunity to play the Shamisen with her. Noriko also teaches Japanese Bono Dori dancing in her workshops. It is very energetic and students love it. The dancing song is a fisherman's song, incorporating many movements of their work style: pulling nets from the ocean, collecting fish and so on.

**Price:** on application (depending on duration, attendance and number of sessions)  
**Suitability:** Prep – Year 12



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