# **Template: P-3 Background Summaries**

Kimi Kikuchi earned a master’s degree in traditional Japanese music from the Tokyo University of the Arts in Japan in 1980. She further studied advanced traditional techniques on the *koto* under Shoin Yamase, who has been designated a Living National Treasure in Japan. Ms. Suzuki received the second place award in the 2005 International Koto Competition and a merit award in the 2003 World Music Festival. She has been invited to participate in and lead numerous *koto* workshops and demonstrations in the U.S., Japan, South Korea, Brazil, Germany, France, Italy, and the United Kingdom. Currently, she is the artistic director for the Traditional Performing Arts Association in Tokyo, Japan. Ms. Kikuchi founded JTM Group in 2007.

Takashi Sato received a bachelor’s degree in traditional Japanese music in 1995 from the Tokyo University of the Arts, where he specialized in the *shamisen*. He is presently an instructor at the Tokyo University of the Arts and is frequently invited to conduct *shamisen* workshops and demonstrations at prestigious institutions around the world. Mr. Sato regularly performs in international festivals and exhibitions at such esteemed venues as the Beijing Concert Hall, Seoul Arts Center, Carnegie Hall, and many others. By serving as a board member of the National Arts Council in Japan, Mr. Sato works to preserve and promote the Japanese traditional arts. Mr. Sato joined JTM Group in 2010.

Masa Tanaka obtained a bachelor of music degree as a flute student at The Juilliard School in 1983. Having always been interested in traditional Japanese music, he returned to Japan upon graduating and began studying the *shakuhachi* at the Tokyo College of Music, where he earned a master of music degree in 1987. Thereafter, he established the prominent Tokyo Shakuhachi School, where he teaches traditional and modern *shakuhachi* techniques to students. Mr. Tanaka performs in exhibitions several times each year at major events, such as the annual International Music Festival, and at prestigious universities, such as Oxford University, Berlin University of the Arts, Columbia University, among many others. He joined JTM Group in 2007.

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