

***Shamisen* – Ascribed to Ōmi ISHIMURA**

(Back Display)

This shamisen features a body (*dō*) decorated with *makie* (gold lacquer work) depicting *himekomatsu* (dwarf pine) motifs.

The slender neck (*sao*) suggests that this instrument dates back to the **early Edo period**.

The instrument includes a *sawari* mechanism—a structural feature that allows the first string (*ichi-no-ito*, the uppermost string when played) to create a characteristic buzzing resonance by being slightly lifted off the upper bridge.

However, signs indicate that the upper bridge may have been replaced in the past.

This piece is considered one of the highlights of the **Sahei MIZUNO Collection** of traditional Japanese musical instruments.

As research on the maker Ōmi ISHIMURA is still ongoing, the term “ascribed to” is used in the display.

Shamisen, Named “*SHIGURE*”

Ascribed to Ōmi ISHIMURA

(Front Display)

This shamisen, displayed at the front, is named “*Shigure*” (“Autumn Rain”). Its body is adorned with *makie* designs of *momiji* (maple leaves), and the back of the tip of the neck (*ebio*) features gold lacquer inscriptions of the characters “時” (time) and “雨” (rain), along with maple motifs.

This instrument does not include a *sawari* mechanism, and its slender neck indicates it was likely made in the **early Edo period**.

The interior of the body also displays a decorative wood-planing pattern known as *ayasugi*, further supporting its classification as a notable early example.

This shamisen is traditionally ascribed to **Ko Ōmi** (literally “Old Ōmi”), the name given to the first four generations of the Ishimura family—renowned shamisen makers whose works are considered masterpieces from the instrument’s early development.

As research on Ōmi ISHIMURA is ongoing, the museum uses the term “ascribed to” in reference to the maker.