Koto Notation in Humdrum

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# Koto scores website

http://koto.sapp.org

## Scores for learning the koto

### Hira tuning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Piece</th>
<th>MIDI/Humdrum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Momijiri (Red Dragonfly)</td>
<td>MIDI/Humdrum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chantsuri (Picking Tea Leaves)</td>
<td>MIDI/Humdrum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hara no ogawa (Spring Stream)</td>
<td>MIDI/Humdrum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Momiji (Scarlet Leaves)</td>
<td>MIDI/Humdrum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mushi no kee (Insect's Sounds)</td>
<td>MIDI/Humdrum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oshino tsukiko (Misty Moonlight)</td>
<td>MIDI/Humdrum</td>
</tr>
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### Koto tuning

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<tr>
<td>Hanakage</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Himamanset (Doll Festival)</td>
<td>MIDI/Humdrum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Itsuki no komoriuta (Lullaby of Dusk)</td>
<td>MIDI/Humdrum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kazenata (Counting Song)</td>
<td>MIDI/Humdrum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kego no tsuki (Moonlit Castle Rain)</td>
<td>MIDI/Humdrum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sakura (Cherry Blossom)</td>
<td>MIDI/Humdrum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Gaku tuning

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Piece</th>
<th>MIDI/Humdrum</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Koto no inari (Seishotre Song)</td>
<td>MIDI/Humdrum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kokiriyo fushi (Kokiriyo Melody)</td>
<td>MIDI/Humdrum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mari no tomororo (The Nobleman and the Bouncing Ball)</td>
<td>MIDI/Humdrum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Western tunings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Piece</th>
<th>MIDI/Humdrum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Romance</td>
<td>MIDI/Humdrum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sound of Silence</td>
<td>MIDI/Humdrum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yesterday</td>
<td>MIDI/Humdrum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Other Resources

- [Koto Sound Dictionary](#) -- definitions dealing with the koto along with some sound examples.
- [Humdrum + koto specification](#) for analysis of koto music.
- [Koto Score Generator](#) -- generate your own koto score based on the Humdrum + koto specification.

## Traditional Koto Repertory

- **Rokudan no shirabe** composed by Yatsushiki Kogyo (1614-1685)
- **Chidori no koko** composed by Yoshizawa Kengyo II (1808-1873)

- **Koto duets**: Koto music from the Edo period (1603-1867)
- **Koto scores for folk songs from outside of Japan**: Koto scores for German children songs, Songs in the Western tuning C, Songs in the Western tuning G.
- **Koto scores for German children songs**: Songs in the Western tuning C, Songs in the Western tuning G.
- **Short scores**: Short scores for learning to play the koto
  - **Gakuchoshi**: Songs using the gaku tuning
  - **Hirachoshi**: Songs using the hira tuning
  - **Nogichoshi**: Songs using the nogi tuning
  - **Western scores**: Songs using Western tunings
- **Koto solo**: Songs using the koto tuning

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http://kern.ccarh.org/browse?l=/koto
String tuning

Hira-choshi

Kumoi-choshi

Nogi-choshi

Standard koto tuning

Folksong tuning
Koto Scores
Digital koto scores
**koto representation in Humdrum**

```
**koto  **kuchi  **kern
*M4/4  *M4/4  *M4/4
*tune{d:G:A:B--:d:e--:g:a:b--:dd:ee--:gg:aa}  *  *

!!Section 1

> A            > A            > A
1-            1-            1-
{5+i  

3              4A
1s            4d: 4G:  
=2            =2            =2
0}            .              .

3|sb  
3 sc
8 .            8A: 8A#: 
7 |            8A: 8A#: 
6 |            8A: 8A#: 
7 o            8A: 8A#: 

3              8A: 8A#: 
=3

1c            8.a
5 .            16g
4 |            16g
3}            8d#
1s            16G
=4
9
8 |            16Gh
7
...

http://koto.sapp.org/kotospec

- Numbers (+A,B,C,D) = string 
- 0 = rest
- a, b, c = fingering (a=thumb)
- { } = phrasing
- | = beam, dot = aug. dot
- || = 16th, | = 8th, nothing = quarter note
- + means duration continues, - = quarter
- # = raise pitch ½ step
- ### = raise pitch whole step
- #### = raise pitch 1.5 steps
- s = sha ornamentation
Rokudan no shirabe

Yatsuhashi, Kengyoo
(1614–1685)

Nakanoshima, Kin’ichi
(1904-1984)
Main schools of koto

**Ikuta school**
- Flat plectra (Tsume, “claws”)
- Ikuta Kengyō (1666-1716)
- Merge koto and shamisen styles
- Osaka area

**Yamada school**
- Pointed plectra
- Yamada Kengyō (1757-1817)
- Student of Ikuta school
- Incorporates shamisen styles of Tokyo
Sakura (Cherry Blossoms)