

Noh **Hakozaki** 箱崎
 (“Hakozaki Shrine”)

The renowned waka poet Mibu no Tadamine, a subject of the early 10th century Emperor Daigo, travels with two attendants to the Hakozaki Shrine in Kyushu. After crossing the Inland Sea, they reach the shrine at night but notice two village women sweeping pine needles under a single pine tree. The women tell how the 4~5th c. Empress Daigo, while battling foreign invaders, buried in a golden box under this tree a scroll describing the “three learnings”: the essence of religious precepts, mental concentration and knowledge to perceive the truth. They explain that this is the origin of the place name of Hakozaki. And finally before they disappear they offer to show Tadamine the golden box if he waits. After speaking with a local man about the stories connected to Hakozaki, the spirit of Empress Jingu appears, opens the golden box and shows Tadamine the scroll, dances a heavenly maiden dance, and then before disappearing replaces the box under the pine tree.

Author: Zeami (1363?~1443?)

Scene: Autumn, early 10th century, the Hakozaki Shrine in Chikuzen province, Kyushu, in the present city of Fukuoka in Fukuoka prefecture.

Category: First category (god) piece in two acts, *mugen* (phantasm) noh, female god piece, *tennyo no mai* (heavenly maiden dance) piece, with *taiko* 太鼓stick drum.

Performance Practice: Not a part of the current repertoire since the Edo period, it was revived in 2003 by the 26th head of the Kanze school, Kanze Kiyokazu.

CHARACTERS (in order of appearance):

Waki 脇役(secondary actor): Mibu no Tadamine, renowned 10th c *waka* poet and courtier.

Wakitsure (companion secondary actors): Two attendants.

Tsure (accompanying *shite* actor): a village woman. Mask: *tsure-men* (accompanying young woman)

Maejite (*shite* 主役 main actor in first half): a village woman. Mask: *ko-omote*, *waka-onna* or *zo* (young woman masks).

Ai/Ai-kyogen (interlude actor): man of the place.

Nochijite 中折(*shite* in second half): the spirit of Empress Jingu.

SYNOPSIS: Scene by Scene 場面

A stage attendant places on stage a framed pine tree with ritual white paper strips.

1. *Waki/Wakitsure entrance*: The poet Mibu no Takamine and two attendants enter to *shidai* music and sing of traveling to a shrine. After introducing himself, Tadamine tells how he how he is traveling this autumn to Kyushu to worship at the Hakozaki Shrine. With his attendants, they sing a travel song referencing with word play the autumn winds of Ueno blowing through the Akashi strait, the uncertain autumn skies, passing the distant port of Harima, and arriving in Tsukushi (Kyushu).
[shidai, nanori, ageuta]

2. *Shite/Tsure entrance* □□□□□□□□: Two village women enter to *issei* music and sing of the sacred wind that protects the Hakozaki pine, the clear moon of the evening, and the autumn shower pounding the waves beating up on the shore as autumn deepens. In exchange, they further sing of the unchanging color of the pine as a testament to the gods' protection and blessings, of the moonlight passing through the pine, the cranes among the reeds, all in line with the path of the shrine. [*issei, sashi, sageuta, ageuta*]

□□3. *Waki/Shite exchange, Shite narration*: Tadamine speaks to the women who are first embarrassed about being found in the shade of the pine tree on this moonlit night. But when questioned they tell him that the pine tree is the Hakozaki pine where Empress Jingu on her way to fight a foreign invader, buried a golden box with a scroll in it explaining the "three learnings" of religious precepts, mental concentration and knowledge to perceive the truth and that is how Hakozaki ("hako"=box, "saki"=promontory) got its name. They go on to recite a poem about the pine wind at Hakozaki. The chorus for the women sings of the four illustrious traits of the Bodhisatva and how they clear away the five obstructions (to enlightenment), and then again references the pine, the moonlight, the late autumn and the wind that blows away the impurities of worldly desires. The chorus further sings of how the pine needles purify the surroundings. [*mondo, kake-ai, katari, sageuta, ageuta, kuse*]

4. *Waki/Shite exchange*: The chorus for Tadamine remarks on the clear sound of the wind passing through the pine and the woman replies that it is the wind of Buddhist law. In exchange they sing how after a passing storm the moon and one's heart becomes clear, the exquisite sound of temple bells ringing with the autumn worship services, and how the Hakozaki pine wind is really the sound of Buddhist Law. [*rongi*]

5. *Shite exit*: The woman asks if Tadamine wishes to worship the golden box and he replies he would yet wonders how to do so. The woman says that if he waits he will see a miracle. Tadamine asks the woman who she is and she replies that he should just trust in Buddha's Law. The chorus for the woman reveals that she is the "mother" of this place and saying that he should wait in the shadow of the pine for the miracle to occur disappears. [*mondo, kake-ai, ageuta*]

6. *Ai-kyogen narration*: A local man appears and Tadamine asks him about the origins of the Hakozaki shrine. After hearing the man's explanation, Tadamine tells of the woman he just saw and is told that it must be the spirit of the Empress Jingu herself. [*mondo, katari, mondo*]

6. *Waki/Wakitsure wait*: Tadamine and his attendants sing of waiting in the middle of the night in joyful anticipation for the god's oracle. [*ageuta*]

8. *Nochijite entrance*: The spirit of Empress Jingu enters to *deha* music. In exchange with the chorus, she sings of Buddha's truth, the pine wind, the knowledge leading to enlightenment, and the moonlight. She dances an *iroe* "color" dance. [*issei*]

9. *Shite dance*: The spirit sings from the Lotsu Sutra, opens the golden box and then dances a *tennyo no mai* heavenly maiden dance. [*notto, noriji*]

10. *Conclusion*: The chorus sings of the glories of Buddhist Law, the sounds of the early morning as dawn arises on the Hakata bay, how they rebury the box under the pine tree and how the pine will last forever. [*noriji*]

[Richard Emmert]