

# Legends of Shoji Taro

## Sponsors

Executive Committee of musical "Legends of Shoji Taro"  
Akita Prefecture, Akita City, the Akita Prefecture Education Board, the Akita City Education Board, Akita Sakigake Shimpo, Honoring Association of Shoji Taro(NPO), The Akita Chamber of Commerce and Industry

## Production

### Warabi-za

Founded in 1951, Warabi-za has its headquarter in Semboku, Akita. It performs original musicals that depict the contemporary society through performing the folk arts of Japan, especially in Tohoku and Akita. It operates 7 performance groups that give 1,200 performances annually in and outside Japan. Half of their performances are for elementary, junior high and high school students as their social contribution. Warabi-za boasts 20,000 annual participants in their variety of workshops and is recognized as one of the best troupes in Japan.

## Staff

Scriptwriter/Director: Hiroshi Kuriki After he played as an actor at the company for 8 years, he has been in charge of many of the works. In 2007 he joined a group of inspectors and trained himself at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland. His main works are Onono-komachi, Masakichi to Fujita, Oomagari-hanabi monogatari (Story of Omagari fireworks), Haruranran, etc.

## Venue

Area Nakaichi, Nigiwai Koryukan "AU" Multipurpose Hall (250 seats)  
1-4-1, Nakadori, Akita-city

## Stage performance schedule

November 5, 2017 ~ February 18, 2018

## Admission Fee

an advance ticket : Adults 2,500 yen Children 1,500 yen  
today's ticket : Adults 3,000 yen Children 2,000 yen

## Reservation

### Warabi-za

430, Waseda, Sotsuda, Tazawako, Semboku, Akita, 014-1192  
TEL +81-187-44-3915

## Story Introduction

One day, Shoji Taro, 22 years old, was dreaming, sitting on a pine tree in Senshu park and viewing the sea. "I want to fill this world with music." Narita Tamezo, a musician, recommended him eagerly to be a musician. However Taro's father opposed that, and Taro got a job with The South Manchuria Railway, after graduating Waseda University. Yet his job performance wasn't approved and he was demoted to lower position. He quit the job when he was 30, and came back to Japan.

He started Chinese food restaurant, which ended in failure. Taro sank into poverty.

It was Taro's wife Shizu and songs he practiced hard that helped him. He won a first prize in a department of baritone in a music competition.

He sang "Akagi no Komoriuta(Lullaby in Akagi)", which became a great hit.

Shoji Taro's song resounded throughout Japan, and he was now a national singer.

However, after World War II, Taro got forbidden to sing his songs by army of occupation. "What should I sing for?" "Who should I sing for?" Resisting against the stream of time, Taro went on a journey to find the real music.