

Alcvin Takegawa Ramos--Pure Shakuhachi



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Alcvin is a unique shakuhachi player: a master of the instrument who lives in the traditional world but straddles the cutting edge. He lives a pure shakuhachi life.

His musical explorations take him far beyond his traditional Japanese roots into the realm of Jazz, Indian, Middle Eastern, African, Australian, Electronica, but continues to be nourished from his source through constant study of the great depth of traditional Japanese music.

If it was possible to hear the breathing of atoms, it would probably sound like the shakuhachi of Ramos: simple, complex, intense, deep; his music is a visceral adventure of the spirit, rich in heart and unexpected vibratory realizations. His flute sings to us everywhere the shakuhachi has been, concert halls to caves, castles to campfires, ancient temples to living rooms, The Great Wall to rainforests.

Alcvin was born in Japan, attended school in the States, and now lives in rainforests of BC, Canada. He started playing piano, trumpet, and singing in the choir in elementary school. In high school, Alcvin heard the sound of the Japanese bamboo flute in a film called *Ran*, directed by Akira Kurosawa and was deeply inspired to study the shakuhachi. After studying Eastern Religions and Philosophy in University Alcvin returned to Japan to study shakuhachi for several years, where he also studied the art of making the instrument, eventually receiving his *shihan* (masters) title in playing and teaching. Alcvin still returns to Japan every year to harvest bamboo, study with the masters, and pilgrimage to Japan's sacred places with his students. Through his study of the shakuhachi of Japan, Alcvin has had the opportunity to travel through Asia, Australia (to study yidaki), Europe, Canada, and America learning about various cultures and arts. The shakuhachi continues to lead him to more adventures to fascinating and beautiful places and people through the playing and creation of music.

Alcvin has taught and performed all over North America, Europe, and Japan and pursues an active solo as well as collaborative career with the shakuhachi and has played with many distinguished artists such as John McLaughlin, Bill Laswell, Hun Huur Tuu Mongolian Throat Singers, Toshinori Kondo, Kazutoki Umezu, Joseph Pepe Danza, and Uzume Taiko. Alcvin also co-leads the groups, Dharmakasa, Densabi, Shinkuu, and Satoru.