

Choboyuka and Hayashiba

The *hayashiba* is the place where the accompanying music of the kabuki is performed. It is generally located, as here, in a small space just off-stage behind a barred window, and the players are only barely visible to the audience. At Kanamaruza, the *hayashiba* is on the left side of the stage. Here the performers sing the *nagauta*, *tokinazu*, and *kijomoto* and perform music to heighten the dramatic effects of the drama.

The *nagauta*, literally “long song,” which dates from the Edo period, is a kind of traditional song that accompanies the performance. It was influenced by Noh style of singing, and the shamisen and drums (*taiko*) are played to accompany the songs. Depending on the type of play there may also be drums of varying sizes, different types of flutes, and other instruments, as well as a myriad of devices for creating sound effects.

The *choboyuka* is the area on the upper level on each side of the stage where the narrators (*tayū*) sing the accompanying songs.