

Water Music, Hosen-in Temple

The *suikinkutsu* water music at Hosen-in is a unique experience. It can be heard from the external walkway at the back of the reception hall, where there is a bamboo deck. Visitors are invited to put their ears to the bamboo to catch the sound most clearly.

The *suikinkutsu* is an inventive piece of Japanese garden technology. It begins with a ceramic pot, which is turned upside down. A hole at the top is partially covered with pebbles. Water drips from a nearby stone basin over the pebbles and into the overturned pot, where it falls into a pool creating a pleasant, tingling echo. The sound has been compared to the music of a koto (Japanese zither) and *shomyo* Buddhist chants.