

Gion Corner: Traditional Arts Performance (Program Text)

This program is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy seven classical Japanese performing arts in a single show. Gion Corner was originally created in 1962 and has been popular for more than fifty years, particularly with tourists looking to experience traditional Kyoto culture in the evening. Since the spring of 2023, the show is held in a brand-new theater. The one-hour program includes *chanoyu* (the art of preparing tea), *koto* music, *ikebana* flower arrangement, *bugaku* dance, *kyogen* comedy, and *Kyomai* dance. Depending on the season, a scene from *bunraku* puppet theater or a *noh* play is performed. *Kyomai* is particularly representative of the Gion area and is performed by *maiko*, apprentices studying to become *geiko*. Known as *geisha* in other regions, *geiko* are traditional female performing artists who entertain guests with dances, songs, music, and games.