

Hélène Seiyu CODJO is a French flutist who started to learn shakuhachi with Daniel Seisoku LIFERMANN in Paris as a member of the French association “La Voie du Bambou”. Following to an initial masterclass in 2006 with FUKUDA Teruhisa, founder of the ensemble and school HIJIRI KAI, she decided to become a shakuhachi professional. She continued to attend regularly masterclasses and private lessons with Daniel Seisoku Lifermann and Fukuda Teruhisa and in January 2013 she received her Jun Shihan title and the name SEIYU 聖優 (Holy Kindness) from Fukuda Teruhisa. In November 2015 he awarded her with the Shihan license (master).

Hélène lives in the Netherlands where she gives lessons and workshops in her home place Nijmegen, as well as Dojo's in Rotterdam, Tilburg and Eindhoven, as well as concerts throughout the country. She has been performing solo or with Japanese and/or Western music instruments in various European countries. She was invited to perform and teach at the World Shakuhachi Festival in London (2018), the European Shakuhachi Summerschool in Veijle (Denmark 2017) and in Paris (2015). In 2019, she is invited to the International Shakuhachi Festival in Prague (Czech Republic).

Apart from shakuhachi, she performs with a wide variety of world flutes in shows (shinobue, quena, dizi, African flutes and others) in addition to the shakuhachi and the western flutes. She has recorded a dozen CDs for children with her different flutes and regularly works with storytellers.

In October 2017, Hélène created the Hijiri Shakuhachi Foundation, a non-profit organisation dedicated to the promotion of the shakuhachi. Through its dedication the foundation aims to increase the use of the shakuhachi in the performing arts, stimulate and increase the level of the practice of the shakuhachi in either traditional and modern music and help transmit its tradition by organising workshops, lessons and concerts, stimulating tape and video recordings, and more.

The spirituality of the shakuhachi is essential for her. She regularly plays in Zen centres and for people with dementia and other mental illnesses to relieve the stress in these patients. She likes to bring the shakuhachi music into other places besides concert halls.