

# CENTENNIAL SPARTAN REGIMENT 2011

## 箏 KOTO

by Andrew Yozviak

*The Koto is the national instrument of Japan. They have 13 strings that are strung over 13 movable bridges along the width of the instrument. Players can adjust the string pitches by moving these bridges before playing, and use three finger picks to pluck the strings.*

### I. SAKURA

"CHERRY BLOSSOMS"

*"Sakura" means "cherry blossom." The opening mallet parts portray cherry blossom trees lightly moving in the breeze with some leaves drifting to the ground. This is contrasted by the rising theme of the folk song's melody which represents the Rising Sun.*

桜

### II. MATSURI

"FESTIVAL"

*"Matsuri" is a festival or celebration.*

祭

### III. MYAKU

"PULSE"

*"Myaku" signifies a pulse or heartbeat. The Taiko drums take on a singular importance in this movement as they are the underlying pulse that drives the rest of the music.*

脈

### IV. TAIKO

"RHYTHM"

*The final movement, "Taiko", is rhythmic and driving. All the energy accumulated throughout the show is released during the drum solo, which is followed by an ending that summarizes the show's various themes.*

太鼓

*Simulated Taiko drumming is at the heart of this show, and is incorporated in each movement.*