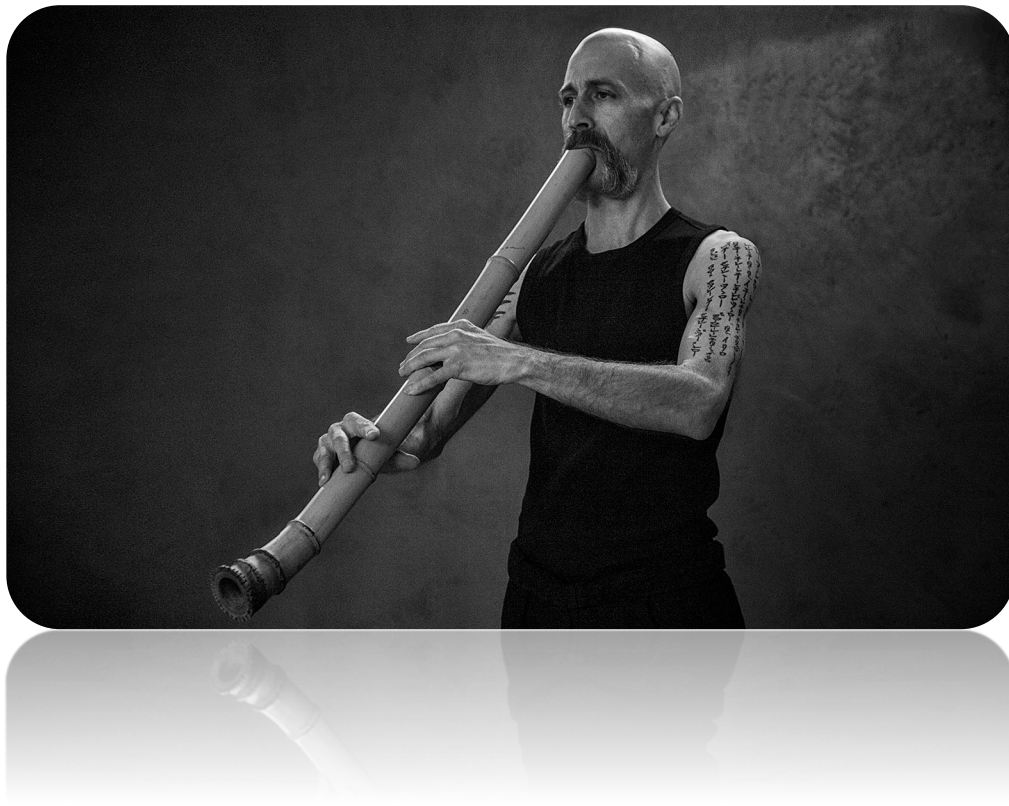


# cornelius boots

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Shakuhachi & Taimu



*new nature music, big breathing bamboo*



*A contemporary solo performance style deeply rooted in the Japanese shakuhachi tradition, artfully energized with jazz, rock, blues, classical, sacred and experimental music.*

## Performance & Compositions

Visionary international woodwind performer and award-winning composer Cornelius Boots presents breath-powered sounds and songs on the robust bamboo flute of Zen Buddhism: shakuhachi. Cornelius approaches the bamboo flutes from a place of co-creative deference to their elemental nature, and engages with them to bring never-before-heard sounds to his audiences. His performances blur the line between wind in the trees and virtuosic performance, and increase the listener's perception of subtle frequencies of sound and other mysterious energies.

In addition to the standard size shakuhachi, Cornelius specializes in Taimu. Taimu is a bass variation of shakuhachi and offers an even deeper, earthier voice. Cornelius is one of the only performers in the world specializing in Taimu and he has written 27 original compositions especially for teaching, performance and meditation purposes on these bigger, lower flutes. He features Taimu on five albums: *Sabbaticus Rex* (2009), *Mukyoku: New Pieces for Taimu* (2010), *Sabbaticus Rex II* (2012), *Mountain Hermit's Secret Wisdom* (2013) and *Holy Flute* (2017).

Cornelius is known for his pioneering work with the world's only bass clarinet quartet, Edmund Welles (1996-2014). Boots has performed and lectured internationally, released over a dozen albums and published scores and instructional materials. He was a featured performer at Science and Nonduality (SAND) in San Jose, California in 2015, and a guest on the radio show Philosophy Talk in 2016. Though retired from Western wind instrument performance, Cornelius continues to compose for wind-based chamber ensembles, such as Areon Flutes, Sabbaticus Rex and Crescent Duo.

## Training & Awards

Earning his Shihan (master) license in 2013, Boots carries forward the high-caliber, living Zen shakuhachi lineage of Watazumidoso Roshi. Boots connects this tradition to modern woodwind performance and present-day audiences informed by his thirty-year career in creative, high-caliber music. Boots is a graduate of Indiana University's esteemed Jacob's School of Music (B.M. Clarinet Performance 1997, B.S. Audio Recording and M.M. Jazz Studies). His teachers have included Frank Mazzeo, Howard Klug, Alfred Prinz, David N. Baker and David Pickett. His shakuhachi teacher, Michael Chikuzen Gould, lived and studied in Japan for 18 years with Yoshinobu Taniguchi and Katsuya Yokoyama.

Since 2004 Cornelius has received awards and commissions from Chamber Music America, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco Friends of Chamber Music, the International Clarinet Association and the International Songwriting Competition.

**"It's as if you're listening to the earth awaken in an ancient time. Very moving." –Lucinda Chavez of Pahoa, HI**

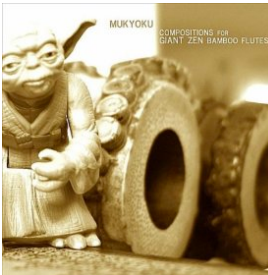
## Selected Discography

Shaping wild music energy on this one-piece nature flute, Boots adds original compositions and arrangements to the traditional, chant-based solo shakuhachi repertoire. Blues, gospel, rock, and jazz styles influence his original compositions and performance style. Cornelius accesses several special techniques for his solo performances, including circular breathing, double and triple-tonguing and throat-singing.



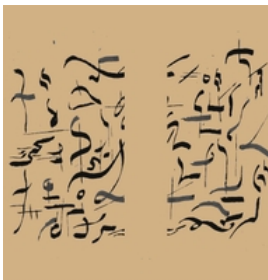
### Sabbaticus Rex (2009)

Album by Sabbaticus Rex. This is sound, but not music. It is primordial easy-listening for dinosaurs: slowly shifting elemental improvisations from fat flutes and big gongs. Two full length discs, completely acoustic: shakuhachi, Taimu shakuhachi, and gongs.



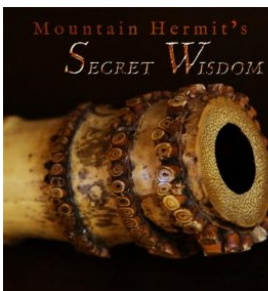
### Mukyoku: New Compositions for Taimu (2010)

New Nature Music. These large-bore, raw bamboo flutes evoke the breathy sound of sacred mysteries and create a connection to primordial states of consciousness: the trees singing, the mud chanting, the cave yawning, the sage wandering.



### Sabbaticus Rex II (2012)

Album by Sabbaticus Rex. Walking the razor's edge between the mystical and the scientific, *Sabbaticus Rex II* archives the live creation of spontaneous sound structures from bass bamboo shakuhachi flutes, overtone gongs, and the one-and-only Bazantar.



### Mountain Hermit's Secret Wisdom (2013)

Bass Zen bamboo flutes recorded in a cave. Taimu Shakuhachi flute. Contemplative nature music inspired by Zen and Taoist philosophy, breath cultivation and the texture of the living moment. Disc includes files of notation, photos, artwork, and extended notes.

**“He’s not just an amazing musician, he’s like a mystic with a tube in his face.”** —*Maurizio Benazzo, co-founder, Science and Nonduality*

# Concert Repertoire Overview

(over 60 pieces of varying length, with no notation)

*Japanese Folk Songs*    *Original Compositions*    *Blues Classics and Originals*  
*Classic Rock and Metal Arrangements/Adaptations*    *Chant-based Meditation Songs*  
*Classical Zen Buddhist Nature Hymns [honkyoku]*    *Film Theme Music*



“I have never so clearly felt the internal power of unamplified sound. Cornelius’ flutes are a revelation of the inner life of breath and an antidote to a world gone mad and breathless.” —Nils Frykdahl (*Sleepytime Gorilla Museum, Faun Fables, Idiot Flesh*)

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