

The History of the Bamboo Guitar

Our story dates back approximately half a century.

Instructed by the late Yasumasa Obara, Osamu Nakayama travelled to Spain at the age of nineteen. There, he learned to craft guitars from Ramirez III and guitar performance techniques of from Narciso Yepes. He studied with both for nine years.



After he returned home, he pursued a double career as both guitarist and guitar craftsman for approximately the next ten years.

At the age of 38, and in his heyday as an artist, he broke both wrists in a traffic accident. Staring at his injuries—which were never cured—he resigned himself to abandoning his guitar dreams forever.

But even the passage of twenty years was not enough. His passion could not be extinguished.

His inspiration for the development of the Bamboo Guitar appeared in a dream he had at the age of 58. Goshi Maeda, his apprentice applied for a patent in August, 2009 and his idea was patented with exceptional speed in November, 2009.



Patent No. 4414483.

Recently he was invited to exhibit his invention by the Korean government, the Bamboo Guitar crossed the sea and carried the name of Yame, his hometown, with it. At numerous guitar exhibitions, the Bamboo Guitar been praised by guitarists from around the world.

The Making of the Bamboo Guitar

To develop the bamboo classical guitar till it was concert ready took about 16 years.

Nakayama realized, that the hard tissue of bamboo hid great potential as a material for stringed instruments. And large-diameter bamboo grows thick in the Tachibana, suburb of Yame.



Still, to realize his dream he had to overcome numerous obstacles:

He needed to discover an adhesive which could bond to the hard tissue of the bamboo. After repeated failures he succeeded.

He also needed to solve problems in his instrument's curvature caused by dry shrinkage; he did this by making bamboo plywood.

The acoustic characteristics of bamboo produce a high velocity elastic wave which disperses its gorgeous sound far and wide. This fulfilled the last wishes of Narciso Yepes who wanted Nakayama to make a guitar which "sounds from the neck".

To this day, that continues to be our mission: to make an exciting guitar, which "sounds from the neck".

Additional information (in Japanese) is available here:

https://kfs.kddi.ne.jp/public/eJn4QAGjUIjAs08BTfN0yjpM6F53c8fy_GltAv_o5Z82

The Bamboo Guitar was born in Yame.
It is the only design of its kind in the world.
We support the development of this new classical guitar,
which incorporates Spanish skill and the soul of Japan.

Tsuneyuki Mitamura
Mayor of Yame

