

## The Purpose / Panelist Introductions (Photos)

Sakamoto Ryoma is undeniably the most well known figure in Japanese history. Since the Tohoku earthquake of March 11, more and more people have looked toward Ryoma for inspiration. A man who overcame the Bakumatsu turmoil could certainly overcome today's chaos. Ryoma had a deep appreciation of American ideals and his greatest misfortune was that he was never able to set foot in the U.S. His descendants are here today to help carry out his dream.

### Panelists



**Noboru Sakamoto,**  
9th generation descendant of Sakamoto Ryoma

- "Ryoma selflessly devoted himself to Japan and its people."



**Minako Kōyama,**  
5th generation descendant of Katsu Kaishu

- "Through and through, Ryoma was against all wars."



**Junji Kitadai,**  
Manjiro Researcher

- "Ryoma was a master of uncovering new opportunities."



**Nenju Gibo,**  
High School Student

- "To understand what it means to be Japanese."



**Sumire Oishi,**  
High School Student

- "Take a step back and see the inner meaning."

### Paper Theater



**Mayuko Tsuji,**  
High School Student

### Performers



**Naoki Nishimura**  
Synthesist



**Guitar Duo, Ichimujin**  
(Yasuhito Udaka & Shunsuke Yamashita)

### Japanese Calligraphers



**Tosao Takeuchi**



**Kohshi Fujita**



**Masako Yamamoto**

### Interpreter



**Saori Hamada**

### Coordinator



**Yukie Maeda,**  
Chief Curator,  
The Sakamoto Ryoma Memorial Museum

## Program

**6:30pm** ..... Slideshow introduction of Kochi

**7:00pm** ..... Commencement Part 1

- ①Naoki Nishimura Performance:  
1. Ryoma Forever 2. John Mung Anthem
- ②Welcome Address

Mori Kenshiro, Director,  
The Sakamoto Ryoma Memorial Museum

- ③Ryoma Paper Theater, Mayuko Tsuji
  - ④Tohoku Earthquake Report, Reporter Osaki
  - ⑤Introduction of descendants and high school students, begin forum
  - ⑥Audience Q&A
- End Forum

**8:15pm** ..... Part 2 Concert and Calligraphy Performance

- ①Ichimujin
- ②Naoki Nishimura
- ③Tosao Takeuchi/Kohshi Fujita
- ④Masako Yamamoto (Hat Designer)

**9:00pm** ..... Closing Remarks

The Memorial Museum was built to reflect the image of Ryoma's ship setting out on the Pacific.

