

## 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 on this land. 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."*



**Shunji Kitadai,**

Manjiro Researcher

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



**Saki 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."*

### Coordinator



**Robert Fish,**

Japan Society

### Performers



**Naoki Nishimura,**

Musical Performance & Sound

## Program

9:30am ..... Doors open (Video of Kochi)

10:00am ..... Commencement

1) Musical selections performed by Naoki Nishimura:  
1. Ryoma Forever 2. John Mung Anthem

2) Welcome address

Motoatsu Sakurai, President, Japan Society

Kenshiro Mori, Director, The Sakamoto Ryoma Memorial Museum

Robert Fish, Director, Japan Society

10:40am ..... 3) A word from the descendants

11:00am ..... 4) Discussion : Oishi, Gibo and the local high school students

11:30am ..... 5) Audience Q&A

12:00pm ..... 6) Closing remarks



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