



**Kayono Wakayagi** is an accredited master of performing arts Wakayagi Ryu Natori. Wakayagi Ryu is one of the five major Nihon Buyo school in Japan. The style of Wakayagi-Ryu is delicate, elegant and dynamic, reflecting a mix of Edo Era in Japan and has been operating for over one-hundred years.

Kayono Wakayagi was born in Kanagawa prefecture in 1972. She started to learn ballet at three years old, and spent six years in Interpretive Dance Club in junior/high school. She then went on to start learning Nihon Buyo from Sueyuki Hanayagi master (awarded Medal of Purple Ribbon in 1991) at the age of 28. Her first stage was “Miyako Dori” in the National Theatre.

In 2008, Kayono Wakayagi moved to Hong Kong for a business assignment (working in investment banking at the time), and met her current master Chika Wakayagi (Chairman of Wakayagi Ryu Konokai). As a member of Konokai, she has actively participated in various cultural programs, workshops and demonstrations in Hong Kong.

When she emigrated to UK in January 2017, she decided to quit the bank and seriously pursue Nihon Buyo. Therefore, she still takes lessons from her master periodically, and has also joined the special training sessions for accredited master of arts in Japan to learn new dances and develop her techniques.

By practicing Nihon Buyo, one can also learn good etiquette, how to wear kimono in a graceful manner, and familiarity with Japanese music, literature, manners and customs. Furthermore, one can learn sensitivity, a sense of beauty, and respect for people and nature. We can also gain a deeper cultural understanding through Nihon Buyo. Kayono Wakayagi would take great pleasure in providing a platform to promote cultural exchange through Nihon Buyo.