

THE ART OF BATTUTO  
RE-DISCOVERING BAROQUE STRUMMING TECHNIQUES ON THE  
FIVE COURSE GUITAR  
TARO TAKEUCHI (JAP/GB)

In the 17th and 18th century, BATTUTO (strumming/ *rasgueado*) was an extremely important part of guitar playing. In the early 17th century the guitar was uniquely played by this strumming technique, players often reading from ALFABETO notation, which consisted of chord symbols and rhythmic indications. Later, plucking was introduced and the guitar developed its characteristic idiom of a combination of strumming and plucking. During the baroque period, the Battuto was executed in a highly sophisticated and artistic manner using some special effects, such as REPICCO and TRILLO. Baroque strumming is very different from modern flamenco/classical guitar's *rasgueado*. In this lecture recital, Taro Takeuchi will illustrate the authentic Battuto technique utilising the historical sources of the 17th and 18th century, playing some examples by Corbetta, Sanz, de Visee, Le Cocq and others on an original five-course baroque guitar. He will also demonstrate some possible uses of this strumming technique in arrangements from examples such as Bach's violin pieces.



**TARO TAKEUCHI**

is a lute/early guitar player. He studied early music at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and has worked with The English Concert, The Royal Opera House, The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, Berlin Philharmonic, as well as Sir Simon Rattle, Rachel Podger and Nigel Kennedy. He has made numerous recordings for Deux-Elles, EMI, Hyperion Records, Harmonia Mundi, the BBC and others. His solo recordings *Folias!*, *The Century That Shaped the Guitar*, *Affettuoso* and *Lovely Nancy: Guitar music from the 18th century* were received with critical acclaim and high praise. He writes on the history and performance practice of the early plucked instruments.

Taro is a member of The Consortium for Guitar Research at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, and The Lute Society.

<http://tarolute.crane.gr.jp/english.htm>