

## **G**oshinko-sai and Shishi-mai ～御神幸祭と獅子舞～

Goshinko-sai (a festival featuring the procession of a portable shrine) at Miyazaki Jingu is commonly known as Jimmu-sama. During the festival, the portable shrine is carried on a palanquin on the first Saturday and Sunday after 26 October.

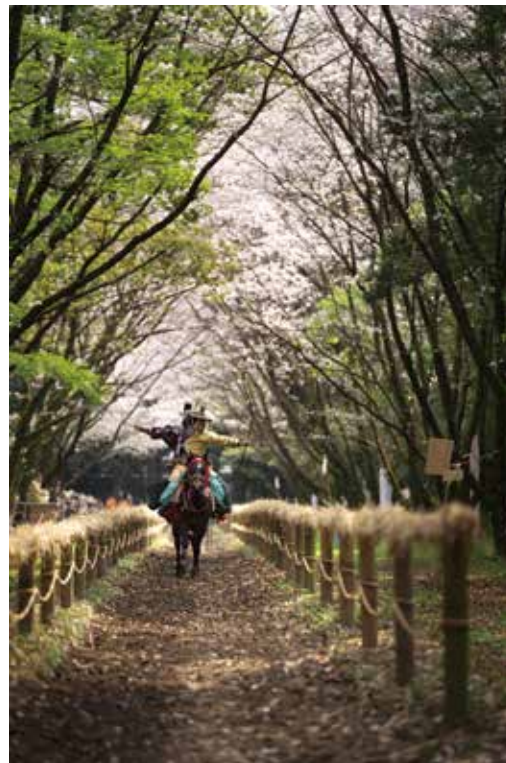
This festival includes Shishi-mai, a ritual dance performed in a lion's mask, serving as a herald of the pageant and a prayer for believers' protection from misfortune and illness. The dance is performed by the youth of the parishioners, accompanied by taiko drums and ryuteki flutes. Currently, Miyazaki Jingu owns 10 lion masks called shishi-gashira.



## **S**hinji-Yabusame in Miyazaki Jingu ～神事流鏑馬～

Shinji-Yabusame is a Shinto ritual in which archers attired as warriors from the Kamakura period shoot arrows at a series of targets from the back of galloping horses. This lively ritual, set against the backdrop of spring green fields, presents beautiful scenery and reminds viewers of the manners and customs of this country in the old days.

In Miyazaki Jingu, this ritual was revived at the juncture of the 2600th year after the accession of Jimmu (AD 1940; the 15th year of Showa) and has since been celebrated annually on 3 April, the date traditionally believed to be his passing.



# Miyazaki Jingu

Welcome to Jimmusama!

2-4-1 Jingu, Miyazaki-shi, Miyazaki, Japan

## Miyazaki Jingu Shrine ~宮崎神宮~

Miyazaki Jingu is one of the most distinguished shrines in Japan, housing numerous nationally-designated cultural assets. It enshrines Kamuyamato-iwarehiko-no-sumeramikoto (later enthroned as the First Emperor Jimmu), his father Ugaya-fukiaezu-no-mikoto, and his mother Tamayori-hime-no-mikoto.

The blessings believed to be granted include traffic safety, recovery from illness, sure victory, and longevity. This belief stems from the mythic episode of Emperor Jimmu's successful Eastward Travel\* and his lifespan of 137 years.

\*The Eastward Travel: Approximately 2680 years ago, when national

unification had not yet been achieved, Emperor Jimmu, then 45

years old, departed from the Hyuga (Miyazaki) region to the Yamato

(Nara) region and established "Japan" with its capital there.

The shrine buildings—constructed in 1907 (the 40th year of Meiji) using solely Japanese cedar—and multiple nationally-designated cultural assets associated with Miyazaki Jingu are open to visitors as well as worshippers.

## Niiname-sai ~新嘗祭~

In the Imperial Palace, the Harvest ritual called Niiname-sai is held on 23 November, during which the Emperor offers newly harvested grains to Amaterasu-omikami and eats them together with the goddess.

The origin of Niiname-sai can be traced back to the legendary episode in which Amaterasu-omikami gave rice ears from the consecrated field called Yuniwa to her grandson Ninigi-no-mikoto upon his descent from the sky to the land, marking the beginning of agriculture in Japan. Shrines across Japan also hold this rite to give thanks for the year's harvest, following the legend and belief. At Miyazaki Jingu, various organizations donate grains, vegetables, and fruits as offerings.



Niiname-sai

## Urayasu-no-mai ~浦安の舞~

The solemn dance known as Urayasu-no-mai was created in the year of the 2600th anniversary of Jimmu's accession (AD 1940; the 15th year of Showa) to commemorate the occasion in shrines nationwide. The lyrics were composed by Emperor Showa as a prayer for a peaceful world/reign.

This dance is performed by four shrine maidens called miko, accompanied by traditional musical instruments such as gakudaiko, gakuso, hichiriki, and kagurabue, along with vocal singing. At Miyazaki Jingu, Urayasu-no-mai is presented during the annual festival (26 October), Kinen-sai (a supplication for abundant harvest on 17 February), and Niiname-sai (a thanksgiving for the year's harvest on 23 November).

The lyrics by Emperor Showa (rough translation): "I pray to gods in the sky and on the land for the world/reign so unruffled as the ocean surface in a morning calm."



Urayasu-no-mai

