



*The Soundless Stage
and Imagined Audience:
A Translation of
Japanese Plays
into Vernacular Chinese*

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12:00, January 11 (Friday), 2019
Room E-C-203
(East Zone Building 2)

This paper examines *Shimeizen* 四鳴蟬 (1771), a collection of four plays, by the eighteenth century author Tsuga Teishō. These plays are not Teishō's original creations but translations/adaptations of earlier Noh plays and *jōruri* plays. Teishō translated them into Chinese and named the collection "Four Cries of the Cicada."

Shimeizen, though by a Japanese author and presumably intended solely for Japanese readership, was written entirely in vernacular Chinese following Chinese theatrical tradition including stage and specific musical instructions. The linguistic and stylistic characteristics of this work are noteworthy for they underline the significance of vernacular Chinese in Tokugawa Japan, particularly among literati and writers.

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