

# KAMUY LUMINA

AN ENCHANTED NIGHT WALK  
AT LAKE AKAN



## The Setting for KAMUY LUMINA

KAMUY LUMINA staged in Hokkaido's Akan-Mashu National Park, on the shores of Lake Akan. Volcanoes, forest and lakes combine to create the primeval nature in this mystical place. Oxygen content of the air here is said to be the highest in all of Japan. In 1934, Akan-Mashu National Park was designated one of the first national parks in Japan, and today its nature remains mostly untouched. This location holds a special place in the history of Japan's Indigenous people, the Ainu, and also the Japanese ethnic majority. They have been living and working together here to develop the community.

Maeda Ippoen is an organization that has long been working to preserve the natural environment of Akan. In 1957, Ms. Mitsuko Maeda, the head of Maeda Ippoen, provided land to the local Ainu. This allowed the Ainu people to gain independence and develop their indigenous crafts such as wood carving, among others. As a result of this gesture, friendly relations continue to this day.

At Akanko Ainu Kotan (village), Ainu culture continues to be handed down to future generations through performances of ancient and traditional ceremonial dances, as well as from traditional Ainu musical instruments such as the mukkuri, a mouth harp, and the tonkori, a string instrument. Ainu people do not have a written language, but have kept their culture alive through yukar which means epic poetry in the Ainu language, a traditional oral literature that is passed down from generation to generation. Some yukar are short while others may take several days to completely narrate. The story of Kamuy Lumina is based on the yukar, "How the Jay Bird god saved humans from famine" as told by Ms. Yae Shitaku, an Ainu woman and a well-known storyteller who lived in Akan.

The melody of "fuunko, funko, fuunko," which can be heard in the Kamuy Lumina zone, is taken from the yukar narrated by Ms. Yae Shitaku herself, mimicking the sound of a Blakiston's fish owl. Ms. Tomoko Taira, a relative of Yae Shitaku, re-recorded the yukar for Kamuy Lumina. Akan Ainu performers, Ms. Kayo Watanabe, Ms. Emi Toko and Ms. Fukiko Goukon, add a special touch by singing and playing the mukkuri and tonkori.

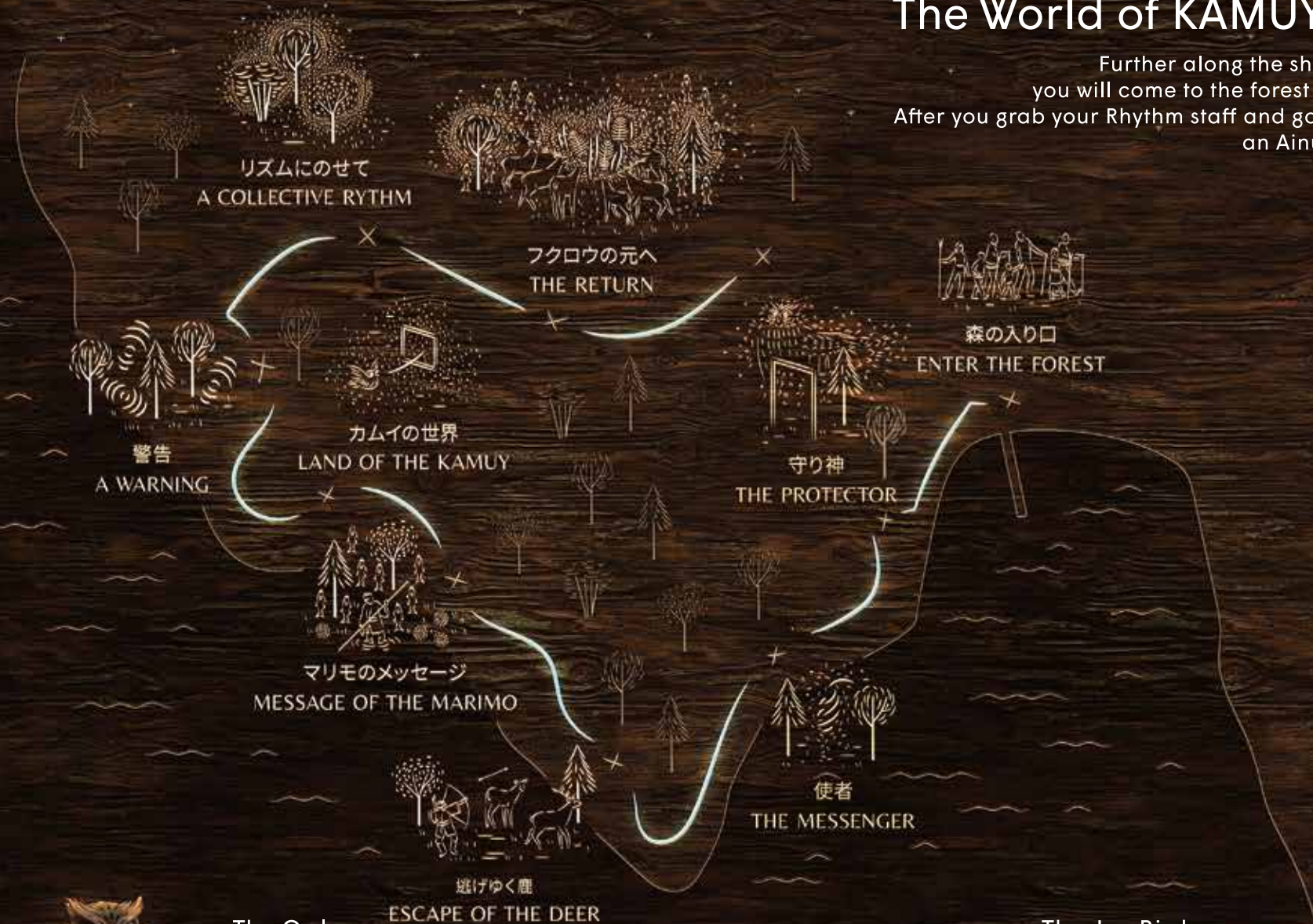
In Kamuy Lumina, Ainu people and the other Japanese people join together with Canada's multimedia entertainment company, Moment Factory to create a new tradition in this innovative collaboration. Some of the proceeds of Kamuy Lumina will be donated to the protection of the natural environment and promotion of Ainu culture, as well as used to conserve the forests and lakes in the area.





# The World of KAMUY LUMINA

Further along the shores of Lake Akan,  
you will come to the forest of Kamuy Lumina.  
After you grab your Rhythm staff and go through the gate,  
an Ainu story awaits you.



## The Owl

The Owl is the guide of Kamuy Lumina. Known as Kotan-kor-kamuy, the Owl is the guardian god of Ainu villages and there is a huge carved wooden owl at the entrance to Lake Akan Ainu Kotan (village) that still watches over the village today. The Kamuy Lumina Owl sees the heroic potential of the Jay Bird and decides to give him the important task of delivering a message to the land of Kamuy.



## The Jay Bird

The Jay Bird, who takes on the role of messenger for the Owl, has the most beautiful voice in the whole forest. His dream is to sing for the Kamuy, but there's just one problem – he can't keep a beat. The Owl has entrusted us with the role of supporting the Jay Bird. Through this journey, he grows and learns, ultimately becoming a distinguished hero.





# The Story of KAMUY LUMINA

KAMUY means the spirits or gods in the Ainu language.

Humans have never able to enter the land of Kamuy, so a new adventure is about to begin.



1

## The Protector

Famine has come to the human world. To save them from this famine, the guardian god, the owl seeks the perfect messenger to take a message to the land of Kamuy. The crow and nightjar both offer their services, but the owl pushes them away. Just then a beautiful melody can be heard. The Owl chases after that sound and the light, into the forest.



2

## The Messenger

The Jay Bird has a beautiful voice, but the Owl cannot understand what the Jay Bird is saying because he talks too quickly. The Jay Bird is trying to say that he cannot get the rhythm right and the Owl eventually understands and pleads for Jay Bird's support. Our adventure into the land of Kamuy is about to begin!



3

## Escape of the Deer

Deep in the forest, the deer are running in between the trees. The Ainu people are shooting arrows at the deer to capture them. But the deer are avoiding the arrows and one by one, they are returning to the land of Kamuy. The Owl tries to persuade the deer to stay in the human world and not return to the land of Kamuy, but they don't listen and run away.



4

## Message of the Marimo

Arriving at the shores of the lake, fish can be seen climbing up the trees as they go back to the land of Kamuy. The Marimo (balls of green algae), a protected species of Lake Akan, appear to try to help us. Listen carefully to the rhythm the Marimo are playing. If you can tap out the same rhythm, the fish might come back.



# The Story of KAMUY LUMINA



5

## The Land of Kamuy

As you get closer to the land of Kamuy, a light flickers in the forest and a space with a fantastic light opens up. The land of Kamuy and the land of the Ainu come together and a sacred window, a window to the gods, appears. The Jay Bird flies through this window, but is he able to reach the land of KAMUY?



6

## A Warning

Waiting in the land of Kamuy are two Kamuy, one who bestows fish and one who bestows deer to humans. The Kamuy have stopped sending animals to the human world because they are angry as humans have neglected to carry out the sacred rite to show their respect for animals. The famine will continue unless people change their behavior.



7

## A Collective Rhythm

With the words of the gods in mind, we continue on. Before we know it, the Jay Bird is nowhere to be seen. The Owl is waiting further along and encourages us to tap out a rhythm so the spirits of the animals will return to the human world. Somewhere in the distance, you can faintly hear the sound of the Jay Bird. The Jay Bird's path of light is somehow different than before.



8

## The Return

At last, the animals have come back to the forest and once again nature is rich and abundant. The Jay Bird has reappeared and seems to be completely changed. No longer is he flustered and flurried like before, and he speaks very fluently now. Since this happened, the Kamuy and humans regard the Jay Bird as a symbol of patience and responsibility.