

SHORTEST BIO:

RILEY LEE began playing the shakuhachi in Japan in 1971. He studied with Hoshida Ichizan II, Sakai Chikuho II and Yokoyama Katsuya. Riley's early shakuhachi training included such peculiar methods as practicing barefoot in the snow, blowing into his flute under waterfalls and in blizzards until icicles form at its end, and running marathons. He still runs marathons, most recently the Sydney Marathon 2025.



Riley has a PhD in Ethnomusicology. A frequent visiting professor at Princeton University, he recently created and has twice taught his semester-long course at Princeton, entitled “Mindfulness, Meditation, Memory and Music”.

Riley gives breathing workshops worldwide, most notably a three-day intensive course he leads each year at Benediktushof, the internationally-known meditation centre in Germany. He has toured the USA and Europe yearly for decades.

Riley is arguably the most listened-to shakuhachi player in the world. By 2025 Riley's music has been streamed over 65 million times on Spotify and his videos has amassed over two million views on YouTube. His latest album is *Breath of the Earth*, an acclaimed 3CD set devoted to the music of Hildegard von Bingen.