Music in Japanese Buddhism
By Michaela Mross (University of California, Berkeley)

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Music plays a vital role in all religions; for example, music can serve as a vehicle for communication with the divine, believers sing hymns together in religious services, or clerics set texts to music when they preach. But not only singing, reciting, and chanting, also listening plays an important role in many religions. This lecture will present examples of the rich sounding world of Japanese Buddhism and will illuminate how music has shaped the lives of Buddhist clerics and lay devotees from around the eighth century until today.

Michaela Mross is a Shinjo Ito Postdoctoral Fellow in Japanese Buddhism at the University of California, Berkeley. She received a doctorate from Ludwig-Maximilians University in Munich largely based on research conducted as an exchange student in Buddhist studies at Komazawa University under the Japanese Government Scholarship program. She has also served as a visiting instructor of religion at Goettingen University.

Co-Sponsored by the Program in the Study of Spirituality.

Event is free and open to the public. For more information, please call 305-348-1914.