

TAIKOz

Vol.5 No.1 MAY 2005

WHAT'S HAPPENING



Kerry playing okedo in concert, Warwick "Peace Festival"

This is the first newsletter for 2005 – it's been a long time coming! The reason for this is that TaikOz has been extremely busy setting up its new office at Newington College, organising classes and managing general admin - all without Graham and Masae who are currently living in Japan (and having a great time, by the way!) The combination of this and our daily training, rehearsing, teaching, composing and performing has meant for long – but satisfying – days and nights. I extend my apologies for its lateness.

For various reasons the newsletter will now be sent only to our class and workshop database. It's designed to keep you up to date with what's happening on the taiko study and performance scene, including general news about the group, class information and updates about special deals on concert tickets and merchandise.

2005 CLASSES



Hugh, Earl, Michael, Lawrence and Terry after the January Intensive

2005 classes have gotten off to a strong start this year. We're now offering two extra classes a week bringing the total number to eight – one each on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and two on Tuesday evenings and Sunday morning/afternoon. Kid's class is on every Saturday. Thursday evenings we keep free for private lessons - anyone who is interested in taking advantage of this can contact their teacher. It's a great way to focus on technical and musical detail.

TAKAGI TESSHU – IAIDO MASTER

WEDNESDAY CLASS: MAY 25

An exciting event will be happening this Wednesday when our class will enjoy the teaching of Iaido master, **Tesshu Takagi**. Takagi-sensei will take the students through a series of exercises that focus on movement, balance and awareness of *ki* - all good stuff for improving our understanding and playing of the taiko.

Iaido ("ee-eye-doe") translates loosely as "the way of harmonising oneself in action": "I" = being, "AI" = harmony, "DO" = way.

The Iaidoka (a practitioner of Iaido) wields a sword with the idea of controlling themselves, as opposed to controlling an opponent. Iaido is mostly performed solo as a sequence of movements called *waza* which are essentially a series of techniques that pit the practitioner against single or multiple imaginary opponents. A characteristic of Iaido practice is the unsheathing and sheathing of the sword – a dramatic movement that is quite beautiful to watch. Iaidoka require imagination and concentration in order to maintain the feeling of a real fight and to keep the *kata* fresh. To properly perform the *waza*, Iaidoka also learn posture and movement, grip, and swing.

This unique session will be offered to the other classes later in the year.

TAIKO SPIRITUAL

JUNE 18, 25 & 26

Congratulations to the eight students who will be taking part in Japanese composer, Shinichiro Ikebe's *Shape of Earth* on June 18 in Wollongong and in Sydney on the 25th and 26th.

Shape of Earth requires eight musicians to play *uchiwadaiko* – the fan taiko – and so auditions were recently held to boost our ranks for this performance. It was open to all of our students who have at least three terms of training under their belt. It was great to see such a turnout for the auditions and Kevin, Kerry and I appreciated the energy and commitment of all who took part.

We're very pleased to announce that **Holly, Naomi, Rajini, Rieko, Terry, Tom, Wendy and Yukiko** will be appearing with TaikOz in "Taiko Spiritual".

Please come and support your colleagues by giving them a cheer on the 18th, 25th or 26th! (Details below).

USHERS NEEDED

We require 2 ushers for our Sydney concerts at the Music Workshop on June 25 and 26 and would greatly appreciate it if any of you can assist us in this way. You can sneak into the performance after letting in the latecomers.

If you can help out please let Greg know on 9572 8595.

TICKET DISCOUNTS

One of the advantages of being a weekly student of TaikOz is receiving concert tickets at concession prices. Although this applies only to concerts entrepreneured by TaikOz, when possible, we do offer discounts to our concerts sponsored by other organizations.

Weekly students have their name placed on a list at the box office. In the case of "Taiko Spiritual", when you ring the booking number – 8256 2222 – and mention the password - 'TaikOz student' - you will receive the concession price of \$30.

E-CARDS

Everyone can take part in making this concert a big success by sending the "Taiko Spiritual" flyer on to friends and family. See pdf. Attachment.

FUTURE PERFORMANCES

Later in the year there will be other opportunities for performance by our students. We will be looking at establishing a TaikOz Student taiko group to take part in various performances around Sydney. We'll keep you posted on this, but in the meantime we need to find a name. Send your suggestions through!

NEWS IN BRIEF



Masae and Graham enjoy Hachijyo and sakura

Graham and Masae are having a wonderful time in Japan. They've given a number of performances in a variety of settings as well as taken lessons with some great taiko players. Recently they spent a day in Tokyo with **Suzuki-sensei**, master of Wakayama-ryu who is an expert on the music known as Edobayashi. Suzuki-sensei is a wonderful musician and a very demanding teacher and Graham and Masae said the lesson was fantastically stimulating. This week they're off to Hachijyo Island where they will have the chance to study under the masters of **Hachijyo** style. Very exciting!

WHAT'S ON

CLASSES

CLASSES	DATES - TERM 2, 2005
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Monday 7.30-9pm	2-May	9-May	16-May	23-May	30-May	6-Jun	13-Jun	27-Jun
Tuesday 5.45-7.15pm	3-May	10-May	17-May	24-May	31-May	7-Jun	14-Jun	28-Jun
Tuesday 7.30-9pm	3-May	10-May	17-May	24-May	31-May	7-Jun	14-Jun	28-Jun
Wednesday 7.30-9pm	27-Apr	4-May	18-May	25-May	1-Jun	8-Jun	15-Jun	29-Jun
Friday 7.30-9pm	29-Apr	6-May	13-May	27-May	3-Jun	10-Jun	17-Jun	1-Jul
***Saturday 12.40-1.30pm	30-Apr	7-May	14-May	28-May	4-Jun	11-Jun	25-Jun	2-Jul
Sunday 10.30-12nn	1-May	8-May	15-May	29-May	5-Jun	12-Jun	26-Jun	3-Jul
Sunday 12.30-2pm	1-May	8-May	15-May	29-May	5-Jun	12-Jun	26-Jun	3-Jul

CONCERTS

WOLLONGONG _____

JUNE 18

"Taiko Spiritual"

When: June 18 @ 7pm

Where: IMB Theatre

Bookings: 02 4226 3366 or

www.ipac.org.au

SYDNEY _____

JUNE 22

"...with attitude"

TaikoZ with the Queensland Ballet

When: June 22 @ 8pm

Where: Sydney Theatre Company at Walsh Bay, The Rocks

Bookings: 02 9250 1777 or

www.sydneytheatre.org.au

SYDNEY _____

JUNE 25 & 26

"Taiko Spiritual"

When: June 25 @ 8pm & June 26 @ 6:30pm

Where: Music Workshop, Sydney Conservatorium (Macquarie Street)

Bookings: 02 8256 2222

WORKSHOPS

WOLLONGONG _____

JUNE 9

"Taiko For Everyone!"

When: June 9 @ 6pm

Where: Bulli High School

Ursule Rd

Bulli 2517

Enquiries: ring Karen on 02 9572 8595

We NEVER send out unsolicited e-mail, nor do we sell our lists. But sometimes people subscribe their friends. So if you don't want to receive future emails from us, you may cancel your membership by replying to this e-mail with "REMOVE" in the subject line (we'll miss you!). taikoz.com does not support spamming in any way, shape or form.