

TAIKOZ

Vol.5 No.2 June 2005

WHAT'S HAPPENING



laido master, Takagi-sensei, in action

Two newsletters within a couple of weeks may come as a bit of a surprise, but we've been organising term 3 and 4 dates well ahead of time – so here they are for your consideration. Please see under “A NEW SYSTEM” and “CLASSES” for details.

A NEW SYSTEM

We are putting into place a new system of bookings and payments where everything to do with classes will proceed through the TaikoZ/Synergy office (9572 8595). Karen – not Kerry! – will be looking after the bookings and payments, as well as assisting you with any queries regarding general business. Kerry – not Karen! – will help with questions about the running of the classes including their content and make-up.

HOW TO BOOK FOR CLASSES

If you are keen on signing up for our next round of classes please –

1. Send an email to Karen at admin@taikoz.com to book your place
2. Indicate which session time you wish to attend
3. Confirm whether you are booking for either “**Term 3**” or “**Terms 3 and 4 Combination**” (and receive the **special offer** of a free double-pass to our final concert of the year on December 3)

Karen will respond with an email that will confirm your session time, payment options and due date.

SPECIAL OFFER CONCERT

As mentioned above, for all of those who would like to sign up for the “Terms 3 and 4 Combination” we are offering a free double-pass to our final concert on December 3 at Centenary Hall, Newington College.

The program is entitled “Taiko Roots” and will feature traditional taiko ‘classics’ such as the ‘endurance test’, *Yataibayashi*, the elegant *Hachijyo*, and *Miyake*, which features the stunning choreographic movement known as *furitsuke*.

TAKAGI-SENSEI’S CLASS

Iaido master Tesshu Takagi recently presented a class to the Wednesday-nighters. It was a really stimulating session that concentrated on body balance and weight distribution, efficient and smooth movement as well as strength and concentration. The exercises involving the *bokkan* – wooden sword – were especially fun and related beautifully to playing the Odaiko.

I was particularly impressed with the way all students took part; everyone threw away their inhibitions and really got into the spirit of the evening. General feedback indicated great enjoyment of the class and appreciation of a different – though related – approach to movement and rhythm.

Takagi-sensei will return on other nights in the near future – something for everyone to look forward to!

BEGINNER'S COURSES TO BE OFFERED

From term 3 TaikOz will be offering two sessions a week covering the basics of taiko technique. We will concentrate on grip and stance, as well as learn the basic rhythms and forms. This will be a great introduction to taiko and we recommend it to all newcomers.

This course is by no means compulsory for beginners and if the times don't suit we can always accommodate you in our other classes: each session is tiered for playing ability of differing levels.

The class times dedicated to an introduction to taiko are –

Tuesdays @ 5.45pm
Sundays @ 12.30pm
(see specific dates below under "CLASSES")

TERM BREAK ACTIVITIES

Due to our touring commitments in July and August there will be a break from classes of 8 weeks (see below). This is a bit of a long stretch, however we are really happy to be offering a week in mid-July that will concentrate on a couple of different activities.

We'll send out details in a further email, but the plan is to devote at least one session to the yokobue – the bamboo, horizontal flute – and a series of nights on Eitetsu Hayashi's *Michi o Yuku Hito*. This piece is played in Hachijyo style, which is a very beautiful and unique way of playing the nagado hailing from the small island of Hachijyo.



Kevin plays the yokobue – Warwick '05

NEWS IN BRIEF

TAIKOZ ON TOUR

QMF

TaikOz will be out of Sydney for much of July and August as we head off for three very exciting consecutive tours. The first trip sees the group travelling up north where we will appear in various programs for the Queensland Music Festival (see below for details).

An exciting component of TaikOz' schedule will be leading workshops for the young people of Caboolture. The group of 20 eager recruits will learn something of the history and technique of playing the taiko, as well as new rhythms composed by Synergy Artistic Director Michael Askill. Their taiko sound will form part of a larger piece that will feature many other young local percussionists. The music is entitled *Caboolture Drumming* and it will receive its premiere on July 23 at Civic Square, Caboolture.

JAPAN

Shortly after, Graham and Masae will re-join TaikOz in Sydney for intensive rehearsals leading up to the group's appearances in Japan. It is an exciting tour for TaikOz as it sees the members once again teaming up with Kobe's dynamic Matsumura-gumi, as well as making our debut at Echizen's Hibike Festival.



TaikOz and Matsumura-gumi - Brisbane 2004

Between performances, TaikOz will take up residence at the stunning Otaiko Hills taiko centre in the village of Ota. A week of intensive training (with perhaps a short trip on the side to Matto in order to pay our respects to Mr Asano of the Asano Taiko Company) will precede our performance at one of Japan's premiere taiko events, the annual Hibike Festival.

The festival lasts all day and TaikOz will appear alongside fantastic groups from the southern islands of Kyushu and Okinawa. Our inclusion reflects the fact that we are also from a southern island!

We're really looking forward to seeing the Okinawan taiko group as their music and style of playing, like every other aspect of their culture, is totally unique to the rest of Japan. A rare treat indeed!

We will be presenting an all-Australian taiko program featuring a new arrangement of Graham's katsugi-oke piece, *Chi*, as well as an extended version of Ian's *The Gathering*.

THURINGOWA

Capping off a very busy couple of months will be a return visit to the 'Sunshine State' and the Thuringowa Festival near Townsville. We have seen photos of the outdoor stage: set in front of the towering stone walls of the local quarry, the setting looks absolutely magnificent. The Odaiko will sound huge, I'm sure!

WHAT'S ON

CLASSES

CLASSES	DATES - TERM 3, 2005							
Monday 7.30-9pm	29-Aug	5-Sep	12-Sep	19-Sep	26-Sep	3-Oct	10-Oct	17-Oct
Tuesday 5.45-7.15pm	30-Aug	6-Sep	13-Sep	20-Sep	27-Sep	4-Oct	11-Oct	18-Oct
Tuesday 7.30-9pm	30-Aug	6-Sep	13-Sep	20-Sep	27-Sep	4-Oct	11-Oct	18-Oct
Wednesday 7.30-9pm	31-Aug	7-Sept	14-Sep	21-Sep	28-Sep	5-Oct	12-Oct	19-Oct
Friday 7.30-9pm	2-Sep	9-Sep	16-Sep	23-Sep	30-Sep	7-Oct	14-Oct	21-Oct
***Saturday 12.40-1.30pm	3-Sep	10-Sep	17-Sep	24-Sep	1-Oct	8-Oct	15-Oct	22-Oct
Sunday 10.30-12nn	4-Sep	11-Sep	18-Sep	25-Sep	2-Oct	9-Oct	16-Oct	23-Oct
Sunday 12.30-2pm	4-Sep	11-Sep	18-Sep	25-Sep	2-Oct	9-Oct	16-Oct	23-Oct

CLASSES	DATES - TERM 4, 2005							
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Monday 7.30-9pm	24-Oct	31-Oct	7-Nov	14-Nov	21-Nov	28-Nov	5-Dec	12-Dec
Tuesday 5.45-7.15pm	25-Oct	1-Nov	8-Nov	15-Nov	22-Nov	29-Nov	6-Dec	13-Dec
Tuesday 7.30-9pm	25-Oct	1-Nov	8-Nov	15-Nov	22-Nov	29-Nov	6-Dec	13-Dec
Wednesday 7.30-9pm	26-Oct	2-Nov	9-Nov	16-Nov	23-Nov	30-Nov	7-Dec	14-Dec
Friday 7.30-9pm	28-Oct	4-Nov	11-Nov	18-Nov	25-Nov	2-Dec	9-Dec	16-Dec
***Saturday 12.40-1.30pm	29-Oct	5-Nov	12-Nov	19-Nov	26-Nov	3-Dec	10-Dec	17-Dec
Sunday 10.30-12nn	30-Oct	6-Nov	13-Nov	20-Nov	27-Nov	4-Dec	11-Dec	18-Dec
Sunday 12.30-2pm	30-Oct	6-Nov	13-Nov	20-Nov	27-Nov	4-Dec	11-Dec	18-Dec

Fee schedule: Term 3 = \$260 plus bachi (sticks \$30-unless already purchased)
 Term 4 = \$260 plus bachi (sticks \$30-unless already purchased)
 Terms 3 & 4 Combination = \$520 (includes double-pass to the December 3rd concert)

UPCOMING 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

BRISBANE-----

JULY 16

Courtesy of Queensland Music Festival

“TaikoOz trio and shakuhachi Grand Master, Riley Lee”

When: July 16 @ 7:30pm

Where: Judith Wright Centre, Performance Space

Bookings: online - https://wic135dp.server-secure.com/vs62914_secure/www_boxoffice/book_step1.asp?ID=218

Phone - 07 3872 9000 (12noon to 4pm Mon to Fri)

MORANBAH-----

JULY 22

Queensland Music Festival

“The Musical Railway Line”

When: July 22 @ 6pm

Where: Town Square Park, Moranbah

Bookings: free event (see www.queenslandmusicfestival.com.au)

Other artists appearing: H'Sao, Mono Blanco

CABOOLTURE-----

JULY 23

Queensland Music Festival

“Caboolture Drumming”

When: July 23 @ 6pm

Where: Civic Square, Caboolture @ outdoor stage

Bookings: free event (see www.queenslandmusicfestival.com.au)

Other artists appearing: H'Sao, local children's drumming ensembles

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