

TAIKOz

Vol.6 No.3 May 2006

**COME AND JOIN US FOR THE CD LAUNCH OF
"DAICHI ... BIG EARTH"
MAY 26 ENMORE THEATRE 8PM**



DAICHI ... BIG EARTH
Featuring Riley Lee, shakuhachi

MAY 26

ENMORE THEATRE / 8PM
Adult \$45 / Concession \$38

BOOKINGS

9550 3666 (Enmore Theatre Box Office)
www.enmoretheatre.com.au

- *For information about upcoming classes, concerts and workshops please scroll forward to pages 6, 8 & 9.*

We're really pleased to announce the release of our latest CD. This one is significant for two reasons: it's the first recording of predominantly Australian taiko and shakuhachi music and secondly, it was recorded in a studio environment, making for a truly hi-fi listening experience.

The recording includes virtually our whole collection of taiko instruments – and more! – and Riley is featured on every piece playing not only his shakuhachi but also shinobue and nōkan. There are many beautiful melodies, ranging from the hauntingly ethereal sound of the shakuhachi in *Resounding Bell* to the ghostly resonance of the nōkan in *Kaigan Sen*, not to mention some absolutely killer rhythms! The engineer at Trackdown studios was Katrina Schiller who did a wonderful job of capturing the enormous depth and dynamic range of our Asano taiko. The Odaiko is thunderous – watch out for your speakers!

The 'Big Earth' concert at Enmore Theatre on May 26 doubles as a launch for the CD with much of the music that we will play live also appearing on the disc. Our program will of course feature Graham's *Daichi* – which translates as 'Big Earth' – as well as Kevin's exciting piece for two Odaiko, taiko set and nōkan entitled *Kaigan Sen*, Riley's sublime *Adrift On The Sea Of Tranquility*, Kerryn's festive *Recollection* and a new piece from Ian called *The Gathering* which features Graham, Masae, Kerryn and Anton dancing and drumming in dengaku-okedo style. Graham and Masae will also perform the melancholically beautiful *Shima no Hana*, a duet played and sung in traditional Hachijyo style. Please come and see the group and support the release of *Daichi ... Big Earth*.

SPECIAL OFFERS FOR TaikoZ STUDENTS AND SUPPORTERS

- TaikoZ students can receive one ticket at the concession price of \$38 – just mention your name, which is on a list at the box office. *This offer is available from the Enmore Theatre Box Office only (9550 3666)*
- If you buy and collect tickets at the Enmore Theatre the booking fee is waived.
- Organise a group of 6 or more and receive one free ticket for yourself (pay for 5, get 1 free)
- The *Daichi ... Big Earth* disc will be on sale at the concert for the special launch price of \$25



LETTER FROM JAPAN

By Rob McGuinness

Last year one of our students, Rob McGuinness, left Sydney to take up residence in Saitama. He and his young family have happily settled into their new life in Japan with a part of Rob's weekly experience taking in regular training with Wadaiko Kawagoe – a fabulous group run by Kenichi Koizumi's dad, Kazuhiko.

Many of you will remember Kenichi as a guest member of TaikOz in 2003 and it was a happy coincidence when Rob found himself in the same prefecture as Kenichi thereby having the opportunity to practice, and now perform, with Wadaiko Kawagoe. (Kawagoe, by the way, is the town in which the Koizumi's live. It is an old castle town an hour and half or so from Tokyo and was very important for trade and recreation during the Tokugawa shogunate. It remains a very prosperous and attractive part of Japan).

Kazuhiko Koizumi is a wonderful man, full of energy and enthusiasm and his love for taiko is infectious. Kazuhiko's dedication to making music, teaching others and running their group is an inspiration to us all. Here is Rob's story



Wadaiko Kawagoe (L-R): Megumi Koizumi (Kenichi's Mum), Yasuko Sugimoto, Jun Sugimoto, Rob, Kenichi, Ikumi Nakajima, Kazuhiko Koizumi (Kenichi's Dad)

When I first arrived in Japan, about a year ago, I came with many of the usual preconceived ideas of what I might find here. I wanted to see the neon and the Harajuku fashion of modern Japan as well as the sakura, kimono and Fuji of 'old' Japan. This is a natural way of understanding and categorising a culture of which we have little (if any) first hand knowledge. I sensed that these things came from a different 'logic', but I had no real feeling for what that logic might be, it was just a little strange to me, a culture shock in the waiting.

It is of course a treacherous trap to 'categorise' the differences between cultures, but we can see differences of expression manifest as a result of these 'differences'. Expressions in clothing, architecture, language and the other things I expected. However it was the difference of 'unity' that has surprised me the most. Family has a very different meaning to me here.

In one of my ecstatic moments following a TaikOz concert last year I introduced myself to Koizumi Kenichi and asked him if he might know a dojo near where my wife, son and I were about to move in Japan. After the necessary intervention of my wife Chigusa, Koizumi san happily passed on his mobile phone number and asked us to please ring him upon our arrival, coincidentally his father had some kind of Wadaiko outfit a few train stops from our home in Japan!

Things are done a little differently in Japan; the dojo is in fact the basement of a community centre! Kenichi san's mother and father dutifully drive two minivans loaded with drums, some their own, others belonging to Kenichi and one or two formerly owned by Eitetsu, to and from the dojo every Saturday night for us to practice on! The centre has its own Odaiko that we also use. We train for about 3 and a half hours a week depending on when each of us arrives! There is no clear start or finish time, and no fees, while we all help to pack the vans after training I am still unsure who unloads them and who pays for the community centre each week, I am sure there must be a fee of some kind... well to be honest I am not so sure, but it is my 'place' to be humble and grateful about such things, which of course I truly am!! In this regard I am frequently humbled in Japan, and astonished at what is called 'Kiga kiteru' which translates clumsily as 'to do something for another persons benefit without being noticed or thanked for your actions.' Here, in part, is what I meant by 'family' having a different meaning for me here.

The first time I turned up for practice virtually the entire group was wearing TaikOz T-shirts and grinning at me as if I was a long lost relative returning home! It took me months to shake the feeling of embarrassment that not only did they welcome me like a son, but that I was kind of helpless to 'repay' them. This is another Japanese way, another form of humbleness. I continue to be surprised by the people of Japan, and am humbled and honoured to be here!

Training is not as I am use to, there is little to no 'style' training, we are 'thrown into the deep end' and we just 'swim'! Very shortly after starting in the group I was told that I would be playing in a concert the following weekend! I was more nervous than you are imagining! When we started to play I realised that I had never actually heard the entire song! The introduction was completely new to me! Well actually I had heard it, but I had never worked out that it was the start of the song that I knew! Not having very good Japanese means that I constantly face such situations! My only other experience performing with the group was quite recently. A few weeks ago we played to an audience of 300! Kenichi san and a semi professional group 'Tawoo' graced us with their talents; it was really an amazing day! A four-hour concert!

Currently we are training for a series of concerts in Tokyo with Kenichi san and his friends at the end of June. We will play together with Kenichi and as his support group for a series of 8 concerts. I look forward to these concerts with great joy, and much nervousness! Finally I would like to say thankyou to TaikOz for the experiences that they have given me, and the opportunities their world has afforded me: my life is much richer for your input! And to my fellow Wadaiko students back in Australia, congratulations on your public performances! I will enjoy catching up with you again one day!

Together we shape the future.

Kind Regards,
Rob McGuinness.

TAIKO AND SHINOBU E CLASS INFORMATION

NEW SHINOBU E TEACHER

It always a wonderful thing to have melody with rhythm and it's our hope that before long the shinobue students will be able to join the taiko-playing students for public performances.... 'Yataibayashi', 'Tabidachi', 'Miyake' etc etc. To help us in achieving this goal we're really pleased to announce Bronwyn Kirkpatrick's involvement in teaching shinobue on Thursday evenings during Term 2 and 3.

Bronwyn is a shakuhachi student of Riley's and after recently receiving her certificates in jun-shihan (teacher) and shihan (master) travelled to Japan on a Churchill Fellowship and Australia Council 'Skills and Arts Development' grant for further study in shakuhachi. Her teachers were Kakizakai Kaoru and Yokoyama Katsuya. Whilst in Japan Bronwyn augmented her study by attending shinobue class with Ohno Rika and it will be wonderful to have the opportunity to benefit from her expertise. Please come and join us on Thursdays – see the dates listed below. All enquiries at the office, 9572 8595.

DOJO HIRADO-DAIKO AND STUDENT INSTRUMENTS

A student recently commented to me that she didn't think it is widely known amongst the students that the Miyamoto hirado-daiko sitting in our dojo was bought through the proceeds of the 2004 student concert. Taking this on board I thought I'd set the record straight and let everyone know that this is indeed the case... and what a wonderful thing it is, too!

Taiko instruments are extremely expensive and it is a constant source of frustration that our dollar doesn't buy an awful lot. However, a couple of enterprising students are currently investigating a taiko maker in Japan who caters specifically for the student market. On their web site the instruments look good and the listed price is undoubtedly the best we've ever come across.

Graham and Masae are heading off to Japan in June for a couple of weeks and will check out the factory. Following on from this we hope to make a purchase using the funds generated by last year's student concert. If it all works out this source may also be of interest to those of you who would like to buy their own taiko. We'll keep you posted.

TERM 3 TAIKO AND SHINOBUE CLASS DATES

TERM 3, 2006								
				shinobue		childrens class [age: 7-9yrs]	childrens class [age: 10-13yr]	
MON	TUE	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SAT	SUN
7.30-9pm	5.45-7.15pm	7.30-9pm	7.30-9pm	6-7pm	7.30-9pm	12.20-1pm	1.10-2pm	9.30-11am
24-Jul	25-Jul	25-Jul	26-Jul	TBC	28-Jul	29-Jul	29-Jul	30-Jul
31-Jul	1-Aug	1-Aug	2-Aug		4-Aug	5-Aug	5-Aug	6-Aug
7-Aug	8-Aug	8-Aug	9-Aug		11-Aug	12-Aug	12-Aug	13-Aug
14-Aug	15-Aug	15-Aug	16-Aug		18-Aug	19-Aug	19-Aug	20-Sep
28-Aug	29-Aug	29-Aug	30-Aug		1-Sep	2-Sep	2-Sep	3-Sep
4-Sep	5-Sep	5-Sep	6-Sep		8-Sep	9-Aug	9-Aug	10-Sep
11-Sep	12-Sep	12-Sep	13-Sep		15-Sep	16-Sep	16-Sep	17-Sep
18-Sep	19-Sep	19-Sep	20-Sep		22-Sep	23-Sep	23-Sep	24-Sep

Information about how to book for terms 3 & 4 will be included in a forthcoming email along with an exciting special offer for an upcoming performance in October.

TERM 4, 2006								
				shinobue		childrens class [age: 7-9yrs]	childrens class [age: 10-13yr]	
MON	TUE	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SAT	SUN
7.30-9pm	5.45-7.15pm	7.30-9pm	7.30-9pm	6-7pm	7.30-9pm	12.20-1pm	1.10-2pm	9.30-11am
16-Oct	17-Oct	17-Oct	18-Oct		20-Oct	21-Oct	21-Oct	22-Oct
23-Oct	24-Oct	24-Oct	25-Oct		27-Oct	28-Oct	28-Oct	29-Oct
30-Oct	31-Oct	31-Oct	1-Nov		3-Nov	4-Nov	4-Nov	5-Nov
6-Nov	7-Nov	7-Nov	8-Nov		10-Nov	11-Nov	11-Nov	12-Nov
13-Nov	14-Nov	14-Nov	15-Nov		17-Nov	18-Nov	18-Nov	19-Nov
20-Nov	21-Nov	21-Nov	22-Nov		24-Nov	25-Nov	25-Nov	26-Nov
27-Nov	28-Nov	28-Nov	29-Nov		1-Dec	2-Dec	2-Dec	3-Dec
4-Dec	5-Dec	5-Dec	6-Dec		8-Dec	9-Dec	9-Dec	10-Dec

NEWS IN BRIEF



***TaikOz at Bellinghen:
Bellinghen Music Association organisers and good friends Mauri and Dorothy Thomas with Kerryn***

- Thanks once again to the Bellinghen Music Association, and in particular Dorothy and Mauri Thomas, for their invitation to perform and teach in Bellinghen in April. It is always a great pleasure to spend time here and make a contribution to the very active cultural life of this beautiful town.



'Taiko For Everyone' Workshop in Bellinghen



Rob's super practice taiko

- Rob McGuinness also sent through pictures of a practice pad taiko that he has made for use in small spaces. It looks terrific and may be of interest to some of you. Rob is more than happy to pass on the secrets to its construction. If you'd like more info about it please let me know and I can put you in contact with Rob.
- **WORKSHOP: 'TAIKO FOR EVERYONE!'**

Experience the awe-inspiring sound of the Japanese taiko with members of TaikOz

Learn about the fascinating traditional Japanese drums — the taiko. Experience the music, the history and the concepts behind the Art of Wadaiko.

Enjoy making music with other people and receiving a good physical workout at the same time!

Taiko Drumming Workshops are for one and all! Prior musical training is not a requirement - just bring your Mind, Body, and Spirit.

When: Saturday 3 June 2006

Time: 2.30 – 4.30pm

Cost: \$77 (including GST)

To reserve your place email: admin@taikoz.com or phone 02 9572 8595

Disclaimer: By taking part in the workshop you certify that you do not suffer from any pre-existing condition which may be exacerbated or aggravated by participation in the workshop. If in doubt about this please discuss it with us or with your doctor prior to enrolling in the workshop.

WHAT'S ON

UPCOMING CONCERTS

"BIG EARTH" in PARRAMATTA (Presented in association with Musica Viva Australia)

TaikOz, featuring RILEY LEE

May 5 (Fri)

RIVERSIDE THEATRE / 8PM

8839 3399 (Riverside Box Office)

www.riversideparramatta.com.au/whatson.asp

"SHOCK OF THE NEW III: RHYTHM AND RITUAL" in SYDNEY

TaikOz with the Sydney Symphony, Gyuto Monks of Tibet, Cantillation & William Barton

May 24, 25 (Wed, Thurs)

SYDNEY OPERA HOUSE CONCERT HALL / 8PM

8215 4600 (Sydney Symphony Box Office)

www.sydneyorchestra.com

"BIG EARTH" in SYDNEY (Presented by TaikOz and Enmore Theatre)

LAUNCH OF NEW TaikOz CD – "DAICHI ... BIG EARTH"

TaikOz, featuring RILEY LEE

May 26 (Fri)

ENMORE THEATRE / 8PM

9550 3666 (Enmore Theatre Box Office)

www.enmoretheatre.com.au

"WILLOUGHBY MATSURI" in SYDNEY

Taiko no Wa (TaikOz Student Group)

May 28 (Sun)

WILLOUGHBY PUBLIC SCHOOL (Oakville Road, Willoughby) / 11:15AM

(Free event)

"TAIKO AND CHOIR" in SYDNEY

TaikOz Quartet, featuring Bronwyn Kirkpatrick, shakuhachi soloist

June 8 (Thurs)

SCEGGS Great Hall / 7PM

Enquiries @ SCEGGS (9332 1133)

WORKSHOPS

"TAIKO FOR EVERYONE!" in SYDNEY (see above for full details)

June 3 (Sat) / 2-4PM

TaikOz Dojo, Ultimo, Sydney

admin@taikoz.com

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