

TAIKOZ

Vol.6 No.4 July 2006



TaikOz performs 'The Gathering' at the Enmore Theatre Big Earth concert

TAIKOZ ON TOUR

July, August and September sees TaikOz off on its longest and most extensive tour yet. Over the course of eleven weeks the group will visit Brisbane, Darwin, Alice Springs, Monash, Sale, Colac, Bendigo, Geelong, Ballarat, Launceston, Coloundra, Gladstone, Rockhampton, Mackay, Ayr and Cairns.

TaikOz is really looking forward to appearing in each of these places, most of which we've never visited before. Please tell your friends and family if you can see we're going to be in a theatre near them! Full details are listed below.

TAIKOZ INVOLVED IN WORLD PREMIERE OF 'WINNERS'

It was over a year ago when Italian composer Andrea Molino and Brisbane Festival Artistic Director Lyndon Terracini approached TaikOz to become involved in the creation of a new multi-media work for symphony orchestra, audio-visuals, solo saxophones and Wadaiko. After months of correspondence, workshopping and rehearsal, a new musical piece has been born and it is called *Winners*.

Winners is an extremely ambitious and often complex work. Andrea utilises his giant forces in a desire to draw the audience into a dialogue concerning the notion of 'winners and losers'. He proposes that when we use phrases like "she lost her battle against cancer", "he fought for his life" and "we will win the war on terror", this presupposes that in each situation there is a winner and a loser. But is it actually the case? Is it as simple and as black and white as it seems? Is this the way we should approach conflict, and indeed the inevitability of our own deaths?

The bombing of Dresden, New York September 11, the massacre in Sharpeville South Africa, the destruction of Ayuthaya in Thailand, nuclear testing in Maralinga during the '50's and a range of individuals' accounts of their own impending death by terminal illness have provided the inspiration for Andrea's music as he asks himself and the audience: "in an age of conflict who are the winners and who are the losers? Perhaps we all win...perhaps we all lose? Perhaps this is a meaningless concept, anyway?"

Andrea and his team from FABRICA MUSICA - a high-tech multi-media communications research centre in Italy - have captured remarkable film footage of survivors of each of these the atrocities, each telling their own personal stories. Several extended musical sequences, as played by younger generation musicians, were recorded in Dresden, Johannesburg and New York. Andrea and Co have woven the various elements into a stunning 70-minute collage of sound and vision.

With The Queensland Orchestra and two solo saxophonists spread across the stage and pit of the Brisbane Concert Hall, *Winners* also makes use of four giant suspended video screens, a quadraphonic sound system, as well as a five-meter high scaffold tower carrying TaikOz's three Odaiko, seven shimedaiko, two taiko sets and various other okedo and chudaiko.

The entire project is massive, difficult and, at times, overwhelming. But the result is a strikingly original and dramatic mosaic of sound and visual imagery.

Following its Brisbane World Premiere, *Winners* makes its debut in Paris at the Pompidou Centre on October 18, capping off a very exciting musical adventure for TaikOz.

TO OUR QUEENSLAND SUPPORTERS

Apart from the *Winners* project at QPAC on the 22nd, TaikOz is also presenting a couple of other programs in Brisbane – The Spiegeltent on Tuesday July 22 and a 30-minute spot on a variety day at Centenary Rocks, which kicks off in the morning and continues into the afternoon when we appear on stage at about 2:30PM.

The July 22 performance is a small group program featuring Riley on shakuhachi and shinobue as well as Ian and ex-Brisbanites, Kevin and Kerryn on taiko. We played a short spot at the Spiegeltent last year during our Queensland Biennial season and enjoyed the occasion very much. It is a wonderfully evocative venue and it is therefore a great privilege to have a full evening all to ourselves this year.

We love travelling to Brisbane and always appreciate the wonderful support we receive from our audience. We'd love to see you at any of our three shows and if you have a moment we'd love to catch up and say hello.



TaikOz performs 'Shinju' at Enmore Theatre

TAIKO NO WA

TaikOz's student group now has a new name...Taiko no Wa! Named after the 2005 end of year concert, it means "circle of taiko". Wednesday nighter, Wendy Tsui writes about the name...

"The circular form emerges frequently in the practice of Wadaiko: from the arcs traced out by each stroke of the bachi to the round mitsudomoe symbol often painted on the surface of taiko skins. The taiko circle also has the meaning of a 'community' or a 'circle of friends'.

The student classes run by TaikOz encompass a diverse array of people spanning across a spectrum ages, backgrounds and personalities. Outside of our taiko lessons we are involved in vastly different worlds, yet in class and in performance we come together with the unity required to make music as a group.

Finally the circle represents the 'cycle of learning' as we constantly move through as students of Wadaiko. With each stage of our progress we are presented with new challenges and new hurdles to overcome. Just as we begin to master one thing, we are sent 'back to square one' with another. But in striving to meet each new challenge we open ourselves up to the possibility of new experiences and new strengths.

And we also have a lot of fun along the way..."

The group itself has had the opportunity to perform on a number of occasions over the past year, all very exciting events that have generated great responses from players and audiences alike. Along with Taiko no Wa's growing reputation and popularity within the wider community, the need to organise things a little better and have the group functioning within a strong, workable structure is becoming ever more important.

Over the coming months Taiko no Wa has a number of performances lined up in Willoughby, Chatswood, the Gold Coast and Dubbo. In the meantime TaikOz will be looking at various models of organising and running the group. By the end of the year TaikOz will make details clear about how our students can have the opportunity to take part in future performances.



Taiko no Wa in action

A NEW DOJO

Our dojo at Ultimo is a hard working space. The level of activity that takes place on a weekly basis is incredibly high and for this reason it is a very exciting place in which to be involved. Apart from nine taiko classes a week, the dojo is home to TaikOz's daily training, our beautiful collection of instruments, members' private practice, the giving of lessons, small group practice, study, meetings and recently, Taiko no Wa practice.

However, we are reaching the point where our company is outgrowing the premises and are currently on the lookout for a new – improved – dojo. TaikOz's dream is for a dojo that operates 24/7, excellent loading facilities, a second smaller studio for teaching and rehearsals as well as room for administration (someone mentioned something about a hot bath and Japanese garden, too!)

TaikOz management is presenting its vision for the future to a number of individuals and organisations that may be able to assist in re-housing us. Nonetheless, if any of you has any thoughts or contacts – maybe even a large warehouse available for rent (!) – please let us know. We'd love to talk to you!

REVISED TERM 4 DATES

Sydney students please check the dates listed below, as there has been a change to Term 4. Because of our touring commitments in October, Term 4 will now begin a week later than listed in the recent correspondence. There will be Open Dojo during the week of October 16–22 and the end of year concert is likely to be on Sunday December 17 (to be confirmed).

If you would like to join our classes for the first time, we'd love to see you. Apart from learning how to play the taiko, we explore the cultural and philosophical background to the instruments and the music. In the process you're sure to have fun meeting other people and making music together.

Ring Karen on 02 9572 8595 for more information and details on how to book.

TERM 4, 2006								
				Shino-bue		Child's class [age: 7–9yrs]	Child's 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
23–Oct	24–Oct	24–Oct	25–Oct	<i>TBC</i>	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
11–Dec	12–Dec	12–Dec	13–Dec		15–Dec	16–Dec	16–Dec	17–Dec

UPCOMING CONCERTS

“WINNERS” in BRISBANE (Presented by the Brisbane Festival)

TaikOz with The Queensland Orchestra

July 22 (Sat)

QPAC CONCERT HALL / 8PM

qtix 136 246

www.qtix.com.au

“TaikOz AT THE SPIEGELTENT” in BRISBANE (Presented by the Brisbane Festival)

TaikOz Trio with Riley Lee

July 25 (Tues)

Spiegelent, King George Square / 7.30PM

qtix 136 246

www.qtix.com.au

“TaikOz AT CENTENARY ROCKS” in BRISBANE (Presented by the Brisbane Festival)

TaikOz Trio

July 30 (Sun)

Centenary Rocks / from 2.30PM

Free Event

“DAHA ... POUNDING WAVE” in DARWIN (Presented by Country Arts SA with assistance by Playing Australia)

TaikOz, featuring Riley Lee

August 1 (Tues)

DARWIN ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE / 8PM

For bookings, please contact the venue box office

“DAHA ... POUNDING WAVE” in ALICE SPRINGS (Presented by Country Arts SA with assistance by Playing Australia)

TaikOz, featuring Riley Lee

August 4 (Fri)

ARALUEN ARTS CENTRE / 8PM

For bookings, please contact the venue box office

“DAHA ... POUNDING WAVE” in MONASH (Presented by Country Arts SA with assistance by Playing Australia)

TaikOz, featuring Riley Lee

August 8 (Tues)

ALEXANDER THEATRE, MONASH UNI / 8PM

For bookings, please contact the venue box office

“DAHA ... POUNDING WAVE” in MONASH (Presented by Country Arts SA with assistance by Playing Australia)

TaikOz, featuring Riley Lee

August 9 (Wed)

ALEXANDER THEATRE, MONASH UNI / 1.30PM & 8PM

For bookings, please contact the venue box office

“TAIKO NO WA AT THE INCINERATOR” (Presented by the Willoughby Council)

Taiko no Wa

August 9 (Wed)

THE INCINERATOR, WILLOUGHBY

Free event

“DAHA ... POUNDING WAVE” in SALE (Presented by Country Arts SA with assistance by Playing Australia)

TaikOz, featuring Riley Lee

August 12 (Sat)

ESSO BHP BILLINGTON WELLINGTON ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE / 8PM

For bookings, please contact the venue box office

“TAIKO NO WA CHILDREN’S GROUP” in SYDNEY (Presented by Ultimo Public School)

Taiko no Wa Children’s Group

August 15 (Tues)

ULTIMO PUBLIC SCHOOL

Free Event

“DAHA ... POUNDING WAVE” in COLAC (Presented by Country Arts SA with assistance by Playing Australia)

TaikOz, featuring Riley Lee

August 15 (Tues)

COPACC / 8PM

For bookings, please contact the venue box office

“DAHA ... POUNDING WAVE” in BENDIGO (Presented by Country Arts SA with assistance by Playing Australia)

TaikOz, featuring Riley Lee

August 17 (Thurs)

THE CAPITAL / 8PM

For bookings, please contact the venue box office

“DAHA ... POUNDING WAVE” in GEELONG (Presented by Country Arts SA with assistance by Playing Australia)

TaikOz, featuring Riley Lee

August 19 (Sat)

COSTA HALL, DEAKIN UNI / 8PM

For bookings, please contact the venue box office

“DAHA ... POUNDING WAVE” in BALLARAT (Presented by Country Arts SA with assistance by Playing Australia)

TaikOz, featuring Riley Lee

August 21 (Mon)

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE / 8PM

For bookings, please contact the venue box office

“DAHA ... POUNDING WAVE” in LAUNCESTON (Presented by Country Arts SA with assistance by Playing Australia)

TaikOz, featuring Riley Lee

August 24 (Thurs)

PRINCESS THEATRE / 8PM

For bookings, please contact the venue box office

“DAHA ... POUNDING WAVE” in LAUNCESTON (Presented by Country Arts SA with assistance by Playing Australia)

TaikOz, featuring Riley Lee

August 25 (Fri)

PRINCESS THEATRE / 6.30PM

For bookings, please contact the venue box office

“DAHA ... POUNDING WAVE” in COLOUNDRA (Presented by Country Arts SA with assistance by Playing Australia)

TaikOz, featuring Riley Lee

August 30 (Wed)

COLOUNDRA CULTURAL CENTRE/ 7.30PM

For bookings, please contact the venue box office

“DAHA ... POUNDING WAVE” in GLADSTONE (Presented by Country Arts SA with assistance by Playing Australia)

TaikOz, featuring Riley Lee

September 2 (Sat)

GLADSTONE ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE / 8PM

For bookings, please contact the venue box office

“DAHA ... POUNDING WAVE” in ROCKHAMPTON (Presented by Country Arts SA with assistance by Playing Australia)

TaikOz, featuring Riley Lee

September 3 (Sun)

PILBEAM THEATRE / 7.30PM

For bookings, please contact the venue box office

“DAHA ... POUNDING WAVE” in MACKAY (Presented by Country Arts SA with assistance by Playing Australia)

TaikOz, featuring Riley Lee

September 6 (Wed)

MACKAY ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE / 8PM

For bookings, please contact the venue box office

“DAHA ... POUNDING WAVE” in AYR (Presented by Country Arts SA with assistance by Playing Australia)

TaikOz, featuring Riley Lee

September 8 (Fri)

BURDEKIN THEATRE / 8PM

For bookings, please contact the venue box office

“DAHA ... POUNDING WAVE” in CAIRNS (Presented by Country Arts SA with assistance by Playing Australia)

TaikOz, featuring Riley Lee

September 12 (Tues)

CAIRNS CIVIC THEATRE / 8PM

For bookings, please contact the venue box office

“DAHA ... POUNDING WAVE” in CAIRNS (Presented by Country Arts SA with assistance by Playing Australia)

TaikOz, featuring Riley Lee

September 13 (Wed)

CAIRNS CIVIC THEATRE / 8PM

For bookings, please contact the venue box office

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