

TAIKOz

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“Tomoe”: photo by our very own Karen Steains

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TaikOz extends a huge thankyou to those many individuals who responded so generously to our call for donations to assist in acquiring new instruments for the dojo. Your act of philanthropy stands as a beacon of commitment to the arts and TaikOz is grateful for your benevolence.

With classes continuing to grow in size and number, our instrument resources are stretched to their capacity. The impending arrival of five taiko from Miyamoto Unosuke Shoten is timely, as they will provide us with very high quality instruments to use in classes, rehearsals and performances. They include two chudaiko – 2-shaku and 1.6 shaku in size – a 3-shaku hiradō, and two ō-jime daiko – large ōdaiko constructed in the style of okedo and tensioned by ropes, as in shimedaiko. These will reside in the dojo and are for the use of the entire student body, Taiko no Wa and TaikOz.

One of the taiko – the 2-shaku chudaiko – arrived a few weeks ago and those of you that have had the opportunity to play upon it will have experienced the beauty of its tone and nice feel under the bachi. The rich, orange finish of the drum shell and creamy texture of the skin easily identifies it as a Miyamoto instrument. Miyamoto Unosuke Shoten are a family company whose superb craftsmanship in manufacturing taiko extends over 150 years. Their clients include many of the major theatres, Shinto shrines and taiko groups in Japan. Kabuki and nō musicians have used their instruments for generations.

Miyamoto have two showrooms in Asakusa, an old and fascinating district of Tokyo. The Nishi-Asakusa shop also houses the Drum Museum, which contains a fabulous collection of drums and percussion from around the world. If you are ever in Tokyo I certainly recommend you take time to visit the museum and say hello to Catherine Ochi, the curator. Miyamoto has a terrific web site, too – www.miyamoto-unosuke.co.jp

MUSICA VIVA TOUR DATES: NSW AND QUEENSLAND

TaikOz is soon heading off on tour giving performances and workshops in Port Macquarie, Armidale, Toowoomba, Brisbane and Bangalow courtesy of Musica Viva CountryWide. Apart from our annual appearances in Brisbane, all other places are a first for the group. If you have friends and family in these areas please let them know about our concerts and workshops.

<p>THURSDAY JULY 19 PERFORMANCE (7:30PM): Panthers, Port Macquarie SATURDAY JULY 21 PERFORMANCE (7PM): Lazenby Hall, University of New England, Armidale SUNDAY JULY 22 WORKSHOP (10AM): Lazenby Hall, University of New England, Armidale MONDAY JULY 23 WORKSHOP (6PM): Empire Theatre, Toowoomba TUESDAY JULY 24 PERFORMANCE (8PM): Empire Theatre, Toowoomba WEDNESDAY JULY 25 WORKSHOP (4:30PM): QPAC, Brisbane THURSDAY JULY 26 WORKSHOP (6PM): QPAC, Brisbane FRIDAY JULY 27 PERFORMANCE (8PM): QPAC, Brisbane SATURDAY JULY 28 PERFORMANCE (8PM): Bangalow Arts & Industry Hall, Byron Writers Festival, Bangalow SUNDAY JULY 29 WORKSHOP (10AM): Bangalow Arts & Industry Hall, Byron Writers Festival, Bangalow</p>

TaikOz TO PERFORM AT NATIONAL THEATRE OF JAPAN, TOKYO

TaikOz has received the great honour of being invited to perform at the National Theatre of Japan in Tokyo on September 1 and 2. This theatre is the home of traditional Japanese arts and regularly presents seasons of bunraku, kabuki and kyogen. For decades they have also presented an annual taiko concert and this year sees the inclusion of TaikOz on the program. We are the guests of our long-term collaborator and friend Eitetsu Hayashi and have been asked to present original Aussie taiko music alongside Eitetsu and Fuun no Kai, didgeridoo player Matthew Doyle and a group of kyogen musicians. (Kyogen is an ancient art form that is part dance, part music, part pantomime and was developed in the 14th century alongside the more austere and serious dramatic form called nō).

TaikOz will perform Ian Cleworth's *Dedication* and Graham Hilgendorf's *Circle Dance* and the grand finale will include music very familiar to many of you: *Umi*.

Enquiries: <http://www.ntj.jac.go.jp/english/index.html>

<p>THURSDAY AUGUST 30 LECTURE/PERFORMANCE (6PM): National Theatre, Tokyo (Lecture/performance) SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 1 PERFORMANCE (2PM): National Theatre, Tokyo SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 2 PERFORMANCE (2PM): repeat performance</p>
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WHAT'S HAPPENING

- ❖ Next month sees the birth of Masae & Grahams' first child. It is an exciting time for the both of them and we extend our support and best wishes to them. Thank you to everyone for generous words of encouragement, flowers and cards.
- ❖ Our sister-ensemble Synergy Percussion is presenting an exciting program of new works for percussion and voice at City Recital Hall, Angel Place on August 4, in collaboration with vocal group Halcyon and Ensemble Offspring. There will be a repeat performance at the Riverside Theatre, Parramatta on August 11. The major work on the program is Steve Reich's *Tehillim*: a truly wonderful and exhilarating piece of music. Sung in ancient Hebrew and based on biblical psalms, *Tehillim* is a musical celebration on the universal themes of joy, hope and divine love. Other works include:
 - LIGETI Sippal, dobbal, nádihegeduve, for mezzo-soprano & percussion ensemble (2000)
 - RICKETSON No More Than Liquid, for percussion and ensemble (World Premiere)
 - VIVIER Bouchara, for soprano & ensemble (1981)Bookings, Sydney (Aug 4): CRH Box Office 8256 2222
Riverside, Parramatta (Aug 11): Riverside Theatre 8839 3399

TAIKO NO WA NEWS

By Martin Lee and Wendy Tsui

On any given Sunday afternoon Taiko no Wa can be found in the dojo practising renshuu, trying to improve fitness and form, as well as working to strengthen our repertoire. But occasionally we are treated to a session with a special guest. Recently, we had the pleasure of a soloing workshop from Ian Cleworth, which was well attended and well received (with thanks!).

Former TaikOz student Rob McGuinness also dropped in on a Taiko no Wa session during his recent visit from Japan. He showed us some of the rhythms he plays as a performing member of Wadaiko Kawagoe, a taiko group based just outside of Tokyo, which coincidentally is run by Kazuhiko Koizumi, the father of former TaikOz member Kenichi Koizumi. Despite the fact that Rob managed to teach us the greater portion of a piece in only one hour, he humbly remarked “Hmm, I don’t think I’m teaching this very well”. Well, we beg to differ. We had a great time tackling the new rhythms and really enjoyed hearing about his experiences in Japan.

May 26th marked the very first performance of this year’s incarnation of Taiko no Wa. We performed Masae Ikegawa’s *Tabidachi* (meaning “departure”) to open proceedings at a national conference of drama teachers at Notre Dame University. With only our skimpy hanten and fluttering nerves to stave off the early morning chill, we began the performance outdoors with an impromptu medley to welcome the delegates. We then moved over to the precipitously high stage inside and thankfully we got to the end of the piece without anyone making an unplanned departure off the front of the stage.



Taiko no Wa at Notre Dame University: (L to R) Marcus Perrozzi, Terry Ashman, Wendy Tsui, Kirsten Jakobsen, John Cleworth, Robert Jeremy, Rieko Tanaka, Liz Znidersic, Steve Anderson, Martin Lee.

Now that Taiko no Wa is in full swing, we have a number of requests to perform in the second half of the year. (See below for upcoming events). Performance opportunities are open to all members of Taiko no Wa. So if any TaikOz students are interested in getting involved in performances, it's not too late to join Taiko no Wa. Contact the TaikOz office for more information (02-9572 8595).

Also, if you would rather not perform but would still like to be involved, any extra hands to help with setting the stage and transporting drums to performance venues would be very much appreciated.

And finally, a few words about the West Australian contingent of Taiko no Wa, Marcus Perrozzi. In the last newsletter Marcus introduced himself. This time he is saying farewell - returning to Perth to join professional percussion group "Tetrafile". From day one Marcus has flung himself head first into all Taiko no Wa activities with a boundless enthusiasm, matched only by his good humour and willingness to help. His energetic assistance in organising gigs and leading rehearsals have been invaluable over the past few months. All the members would like to thank Marcus for his wonderful contributions to the group and we wish him all the best for his career in Perth. He will be greatly missed.

INTERNATIONAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL ASSEMBLY in SYDNEY

Taiko no Wa

July 18 (Wed) 10AM

INTERNATIONAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL, ULTIMO

(Private performance)

SPRING FESTIVAL in SYDNEY

Taiko no Wa

Presented by Willoughby Council

September 15 (Sat)

Street Parade on VICTORIA AVE, CHATSWOOD

Stage Performance at WILLOUGHBY CIVIC CENTRE, CHATSWOOD

Free event

(For updates on performance times see <http://www.willoughby.nsw.gov.au/Whats-On.html>)

"PACIFIC ON A PLATE" FOOD FESTIVAL in SYDNEY

Taiko no Wa

Presented by the Australian National Maritime Museum

September 1 (Sat) 11.30AM and 1.30PM

September 2 (Sun) 11.30AM and 1.30PM

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM, DARLING HARBOUR

Free event

UPCOMING EVENTS

'KAIGAN SEN...COASTLINE' in PORT MACQUARIE

TaikOz, featuring Riley Lee, shakuhachi

Presented by Musica Viva CountryWide

July 19 (Thurs) 7:30PM

PANTHERS, PORT MACQUARIE (Camden Haven Music Association)

Enquiries: the listed venue or Musica Viva 1800 688 482 / www.musicaviva.com.au

KAIGAN SEN...COASTLINE' in ARMIDALE

TaikOz

Presented by Musica Viva CountryWide

July 21 (Sat) 7:00PM

LAZENBY HALL, UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND

Bookings: 02 6772 7203 or Musica Viva 1800 688 482 / www.musicaviva.com.au

WORKSHOP

July 22 (Sun) 10:00AM

LAZENBY HALL

'PEARL' in TOOWOOMBA

TaikOz, featuring Riley Lee, shakuhachi & Timothy Constable, marimba & percussion

Presented by Musica Viva CountryWide

July 24 (Tues) 8:00PM

EMPIRE THEATRE

Enquiries: the listed venue or Musica Viva 1800 688 482 / www.musicaviva.com.au

WORKSHOP

July 21 (Mon) 6:00PM

EMPIRE THEATRE

'PEARL' in BRISBANE

TaikOz, featuring Riley Lee, shakuhachi & Timothy Constable, marimba & percussion

Presented by Musica Viva Australia and QPAC

July 27 (Fri) 8:00PM

CONCERT HALL, QPAC

Enquiries: the listed venue or Musica Viva 1800 688 482 / www.musicaviva.com.au

WORKSHOPS

July 25 (Wed) 4:30PM

July 26 (Thurs) 6:00PM

QPAC

'KAIGAN SEN...COASTLINE' in BANGALOW (as part of the Byron Writers Festival)

TaikOz, featuring Riley Lee, shakuhachi

Presented by Musica Viva CountryWide

July 28 (Sat) 8:00PM

ARTS & INDUSTRY HALL, BANGALOW

Enquiries: 02 6687 1081 or Musica Viva 1800 688 482 / www.musicaviva.com.au

WORKSHOP

July 29 (Sun) 10:00AM

ARTS & INDUSTRY HALL

'CHI' in TOKYO, JAPAN

Eitetsu Hayashi, Fuun no Kai, Kagura musicians, Matthew Doyle & TaikOz

Presented by the National Theatre

Sept 1 & 2 (Sat & Sun)

NATIONAL THEATRE OF JAPAN, TOKYO

Enquiries: <http://www.ntj.jac.go.jp/english/index.html>



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