

TAIKOZ



TAIKOZ PERFORMS IN MELBOURNE WITH MELBOURNE SYMPHONY & SYNERGY PERCUSSION

29-31 May – The Book of Clouds, the Arts Centre,
Book Now www.ticketmaster.com.au

TAIKOZ'S ONLY SYDNEY CONCERT FOR 2008 ON SALE NOW

4 July - Breath to Breath, City Recital Hall, Book Now www.cityrecitalhall.com

WORLD SHAKUHACHI FESTIVAL COMES TO SYDNEY

4-8 July, More information

www.worldshakuhachifestival08.com

NEWSLETTER: VOL 8, No 1 APRIL 2008

WORLD SHAKUHACHI FESTIVAL – WSF08

www.worldshakuhachifestival08.com

From July 4 to 8, Sydney will play host to the World Shakuhachi Festival. This promises to be the largest congregation of shakuhachi players ever amassed on the globe! It is also an Australian 'first' as previous festivals have been held only in Japan and the US. TaikoZ's Riley Lee has had the huge task of coordinating the festival and as it will boast hundreds of players, and a multitude of activities and events, this has been no small feat.

Formal concerts, workshops and free performances will be offered for the enjoyment of the 400 world-wide enthusiasts and of course, the general public. Program highlights include a free "Celebrity Concert" at the Art Gallery of NSW's Art After Hours series, a Grand Prix Young Performers "mp3 Competition and Concert" and the grand finale "Masters Concert" at City Recital Hall, Angel Place, featuring a formidable line-up of guests, which will culminate in a haunting requiem played in unison.

As Riley says, "The passion people feel for the shakuhachi makes amazing things possible. This time 'round we have the most exciting program we could hope for. Already hundreds of elite performers are coming from Japan to take part, including a national living treasure from Japan, Mr. Reibo Aoki."

Time has flown! TaikoZ has had a busy and exciting beginning to 2008 with a myriad of performances, classes, lessons, workshops and training filling our calendar. And now that we are enjoying the subtle and beautiful changes of season, we are looking forward to another year of shared experiences that will excite and entertain performers and audiences alike. In the process, TaikoZ endeavours to touch our souls; refreshing the mind, the body and the spirit.

JANUARY INTENSIVE

We certainly got off to a great start with the 3-day January Intensive Course held at the Naamaroo Conference Centre in leafy Lane Cove. With a full house of 34 participants, every minute of the day was spent interacting with others through drumming, singing, dancing, playing the shinobue, daily breathing sessions and sharing meals. It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm, dedication and camaraderie amongst the group and I think we all benefited from the presence of our Tasmanian, Victorian and New Zealand guests. Many thanks to all of you who participated and helped make it such a successful and rewarding experience. Details of January Intensive '09 will come out later this year.



Anton leads a dance session at the January Intensive



Miyake-style session at the January Intensive

TAIKOZ IN JAPAN

Come the end of April, TaikoZ will be heading back to Japan – this time for three days of intensive study in Shizuoka with the head of Miyake Taiko, Mr Akio Tsumura and two of his sons. Kevin, Kerryn and Ian will also enjoy the privilege of lessons on O-Edobayashi music with Suzuki-sensei, Head of Wakayama-ryu, and Kerryn will seek to deepen her love and experience of Nihon-buyo (Japanese dance) through further study in Tokyo.

We're certainly looking forward to the Miyake sessions, which will be fun and interesting, and without a doubt, incredibly hard work. Mr Tsumura will be putting the eight members of TaikoZ, members of Eitetsu Fuun no Kai and members of Yosoro through very challenging paces – at six hours each day it will be no holiday! We look forward to sharing our experiences with you on our return.



BREATH TO BREATH: TAIKOZ WSF08 OPENING CONCERT

TaikOz will present the WSF08 opening night concert on Friday July 4 at City Recital Hall, Angel Place. The performance is entitled *Breath To Breath* and will feature many wonderful performers and music: old friend, Synergy Percussion member and dynamic soloist, Timothy Constable, TaikOz member Anton Lock as dance soloist, four international shakuhachi soloists and of course, Riley playing shakuhachi, shinobue and nōkan. This program promises to be an exciting and varied one, with the idea of inhalation and exhalation as a unifying thematic thread.

The program will include the hauntingly delicate *Mushin* for shakuhachi and percussion; *Resounding Bell* – an extended exploration of colour and sound for shakuhachi solo, percussion, taiko and voice; *Solo* from *Kaidan*, choreographed by the world-renowned Meryl Tankard for dance soloist, taiko, percussion and nōkan; *The Peals Of Thunder* – first premiered in last year's *Five Elements* program and re-worked for this concert presentation; a new piece in Miyake style entitled *Tribute To Miyake-jima*; a new arrangement of *Circle Dance* for extended ensemble – and more besides, with featured solos by our international guests. Not to be missed!

For full details about the festival visit:
www.worldshakuhachifestival08.com

WEEKLY TAIKO AND SHINOBUE CLASSES

May 1 is the starting date for term 2 taiko and shinobue flute classes, details of which are available from Karen at admin@taikoz.com or 02 9572 8595. TaikOz is always keen to see new class members and we invite you to join one of the nine weekly classes.

Our Thursday night class (7:30-9PM) is an introductory course especially for beginners. Over the course of 8 weeks you will cover the basics of playing as well as explore a couple of different taiko styles. The course is designed to accommodate those interested in having fun playing the taiko over a number of weeks, as well as to equip first-timers with the basics that enable them to move into annual ongoing classes held on other nights of the week. For full details please contact Karen in the office (details above).

JOIN A FRIEND

If you have a friend that would like to receive these regular newsletters, then please tell us or tell them to join by emailing us at admin@taikoz.com or phone 02 9572 8595.

www.taikoz.com

THE BOOK OF CLOUDS

May 29-31 will see the World Premiere of Gerard Brophy's *Book Of Clouds*, a new work especially composed for TaikOz, Synergy Percussion, Riley Lee and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra. The concerts will take place in the MSO's home, Hamer Hall at the Arts Centre – a familiar and much-loved place for TaikOz, too.

Gerry is an old friend of Synergy's, having written several works for the group over the past 20 years. He was commissioned by the MSO to write the 40-minute piece after TaikOz's previous concerto appearances in 2004 with Maki Ishii's *Monoprism* for Wadaiko and Orchestra. After several ideas were canvassed, Ian and Simon Rogers (Artistic Administrator of the MSO) settled on the notion of combining the visceral energy of the taiko with Riley's "music of the spheres" and the ethereal qualities of Synergy's metallic batterie, which includes Tibetan singing bowls, Chinese wind gongs, Swiss almglocken (cow bells), Burmese tuned gongs and Indian bells.

Gerard writes about his work, "I guess that the most exciting challenge of the piece was to incorporate a fairly huge array of percussive resources - resources of incredibly varying timbral, dynamic and spiritual qualities - with the vast resources of the orchestra into a cohesive and meaningful whole. This challenge to engage all the players and give them their moments in the sun, so to speak, was a most pressing concern. However, more urgent was my desire to feature the incredibly special talents of some very close and dear friends. I regard the whole unfolding of the piece from its conception to its performance as being a journey, a fantastic journey of friendship, exploration and challenges which has transformed me. I can only hope that my friends in TaikOz and Synergy have had a tenth of the fun!"

The combination of sonorities conjured by the soloists and orchestra evokes the image of clouds in all their glorious manifestations. Lasting 40 minutes *The Book Of Clouds* is a significant new work, and TaikOz welcomes its place in the group's repertoire. *The Book Of Clouds* advances the contemporary expression of taiko, not only in Australia but internationally.

Thanks Gerry – we're looking forward to hearing it all come together soon!



Riley Lee & Masae Ikegawa. Photo by Keith Saunders.

APRIL 19 / 2-4PM

"Taiko For Everyone!"

Introductory Workshop
Presented by members of TaikOz
SYDNEY: TAIKOZ DOJO
(address details upon booking)

BOOKINGS:

admin@taikoz.com / 02 9572 8595

MAY 29-31 - 8PM

"The Book Of Clouds"

by Gerard Brophy
TaikOz, Synergy Percussion,
Riley Lee, shakuhachi
Melbourne Symphony Orchestra,
conducted by Tadaaki Otaka
MELBOURNE: HAMER HALL,
THE ARTS CENTRE

BOOKINGS: www.mso.com.au
or [www.ticketmaster.com.au/
artist/722592](http://www.ticketmaster.com.au/artist/722592)

JUNE 20 - 1:30-2:30PM

Schools Performance

TaikOz, featuring Riley Lee, shakuhachi
SYDNEY: CASULA POWERHOUSE

BOOKINGS:

Ticketek.com.au 1300 795 012

JUNE 21 - 8PM

"Blessings Of The Earth"

TaikOz, featuring Riley Lee, shakuhachi
SYDNEY: CASULA POWERHOUSE

BOOKINGS:

Ticketek.com.au 1300 795 012

JULY 4 - 7:30PM

"Breath To Breath"

TaikOz, featuring Riley Lee, shakuhachi
Timothy Constable, marimba &
percussion
Anton Lock, dance

SYDNEY: ANGEL PLACE, CITY
RECITAL HALL

BOOKINGS: 02 8256 2222 or
www.cityrecitalhall.com