

# WADAIKO 遠 TOKARA

December 2013

## Upcoming Performances and Workshops

### Tokara New Year Mini Concerts

Hirugami Onsen, Nagano Prefecture, Japan

**December 31st:** Hotel Keizan

**January 1st:** Seifuuen Hotel, Hanaya Hotel

**January 2nd:** Hanaya Hotel

### Kazakoshi Japan Tour

**July 6th:** 3:00pm, Kitabunka Shougekijou

Nagoya City, Aichi Prefecture, Japan

**July 12th:** 6:30pm, Iida City Community Center

Iida City, Nagano Prefecture, Japan

**July 25:** 7:00pm, Ina City Youth Education Center (Inase)

Ina City, Nagano Prefecture, Japan

**July 26th:** 6:30pm, Performing Arts Forum

Takayama City, Nagano Prefecture, Japan

### Kazakoshi World Tour

**February 5th:** Delhi City, India

**April - May:** Canada Tour

**May 2nd:** Kelowna Community Theatre

[Click here to order tickets](#)

**September - December:** Europe Tour

### Tengei Japan Tour

**June 7th:** Higashiminou Fureai Center, Nakatsugawa city,  
Gifu Prefecture, Japan

**June 8th:** Ajioka Shimin Center, Komaki City,  
Aichi Prefecture, Japan

**July 27th:** Japan Manman Naka Center, Gujo City,  
Gifu Prefecture, Japan

### Workshops

Iida City, Nagano Prefecture, Japan

**June 23 - 27:** INADANI Wadaiko Drumming Course  
Beginners/Intermediate Course

**August 11th - 15th:** Tokara Wadaiko Bootcamp  
Intermediate/Advanced

### Festivals

**June 28th:** Saiwai Shimoina Wadaiko Festival  
6:30pm, Iida City Kouminkan Theater  
Iida City, Nagano Prefecture, Japan

## Another Trek Around the Sun

Written by Dean Havixbeck.



Well hello again. It is a new edition, and a new layout, of your favourite newsletter from Wadaiko Tokara. Well we made it back to Japan safe and sound, and have begun settling for the days of winters. These are the days where touring and performing usually slow down and training picks up. However, we do have a couple of stories to entertain you with and also a small picture gallery containing a few photos selected among the thousands of snaps we managed to capture throughout the year.

Before getting into our continuing adventures though, I would like to mention Tokara's latest endeavour: **The Free For Schools Project - Education Residencies**. Our goal with this project is to raise enough money to offer free school performances and workshops to schools along our 2014 tour route which have little or no budget for the arts. We would love to see this project become a success but I must stress that we need your help in order to succeed. You can click on this link [here](#) for more information and to make a donation. You can also join and invite your friends to the Facebook event [here](#) and you can copy the donation link and post it on Facebook, Google+, Twitter and any other social media platform you may be using. All of this will help bring awareness to others about our project and ensure its success. Once you have finished with that,



*Japanese Apple Tree in Nagano Prefecture*

you can grab your favourite beverage, then find a cozy spot by the fire, (or download your virtual fire), and get ready for Tokara's last newsletter of the year

Ok, Tale number one is from our first school show in Japan after returning from the Europe tour, at Dousen ShouGakkou (Elementary School) in Seto city. We always love these shows because they contain some of the most energetic audiences you can find. Yet there are noticeable differences between audiences from country to country. This point alone could be subject to an interesting research paper but let's leave that for another time. For now it would be safe to say that although Japanese audiences enjoy performances as much as any other country, on average they tend to express that joy and excitement with a more conservative approach. Which is why this school performance deserves such a lengthy introduction.



*Picking apples link nobodies business*

Not only was the display of joy and excitement from the audience counter to the average audience in Japan, it was more akin to that of a climax from a famous DJ's set at an extremely awesome rave. This was definitely the first time I have seen a Japanese audience react this way, and most likely one of the most memorable school performances we have played to date. A tremendous thanks goes out to the students and staff of Dousen ShouGakkou for such a warm reception.

Tale number two comes from a chance opportunity to join in on some harvesting work. Nagano Prefecture is nestled in the heart of Honshu Island, the main island of Japan. And because of this it is abundant with various types of agriculture, apple orchards among them. A connection one of the members of Tokara has gives us the opportunity to help out in apple harvesting. Now for those of you not familiar with Japanese apples, just take a look of the picture to



*Enjoying the fruits of labour*

the left and you will understand when I say that Japan seems to produce some of the largest and tastiest apples that I have ever seen. The meticulous farming and harvesting practices of this particular apple orchard we were harvesting made them some of the most sought after apples in Japan as well. This was an energising time to be out in the Japanese country side among the trees, the mountains and fresh country side air.



*Really big apples!*

So now winter begins its decent upon Japan. The days have been warm and sunny, the nights full of promises of cold, the mountain tops are turning white with snow and you can hear the coming winter storms on the wind. Training resumes for the next big set of performances to say farewell to the great times and challenging moments of the year, and to welcome the new ones coming along with 2014. Our picture gallery awaits you below, including some shots of the tasty dishes we were lucky enough to sample across North America and Europe.





*From the members and staff of Wadaiko Tokara, we wish you  
Happy Holidays*

# WADAIKO 遙 TOKARA



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## Check out Wadaiko Tokara's first CD and DVD



To see videos and pictures of the  
2013 tour, follow the links below:

[Performance Schedule](#)

[Tokara on YouTube](#)

[Tokara on Facebook](#)

[Tokara on Twitter](#)

## Upcoming Workshops and Classes

### INADANI TAIKO DRUMMING COURSE

#### GRAND TOUR

Beginners/Intermediate Course

**June 23 - 28, 2014**

This course is designed for the purpose of bringing the taiko practitioner closer to understanding the art that is Wadaiko in Japan. For this reason, the training site, nestled between the mountains of Shimoina, was specifically chosen to enhance an experience and atmosphere which cannot be had in any other country of the world. This course offers a unique experience as it takes place in the heart of Nagano Prefecture, Japan. Each participant will be surrounded by and immersed in the culture from which comes the heart and spirit of the Wadaiko.

*Details can be found on the course website:*

[www.tokara.net/japantaikocourse.html](http://www.tokara.net/japantaikocourse.html)

#### TOKARA WADAIKO BOOTCAMP

Intermediate Course/Advanced Course

**August 11 - 15, 2014**

The TOKARA Wadaiko Camp (also known as TOKARA Boot Camp) is an intensive course which introduces the participant to the training style of Tokara's full-time performing members. All material taught in this course are drills and performance pieces used by Art Lee and Tokara.

Registration details can be found at:

[www.tokara.net/taikocamp.html](http://www.tokara.net/taikocamp.html)

**Thank you for supporting us throughout the years. We look forward to seeing you again in the near future.**