

# WADAIKO 遙 TOKARA

July 2013

## Upcoming Performances and Workshops

- **August 1st - 26th:** *Kazakoshi performances at Edinburgh Fringe Festival in C too main house, Edinburgh, Scotland*
- **October 19th - 24th:** *Japan week performances in Poznan, Poland*



*Sky Tree outside the Asahi Theatre in Tokyo*

### Sweating Away

Written by Dean Havixbeck.

Hello again Tokara fans, it is time for another Tokara Newsletter, here to fill you in on our travels and adventures for the last couple of months. And as I ponder back on the first few days of July, I can think of only one thing: sweat. Actually we were lucky since we were able to escape most of the heat by traveling to the UK for the second half of July. But it was getting very humid and the temperature was close to 35 degrees Celsius, resulting in a lot of wet shirts after some hard training. But I digress. Lets get on with what we have been up to.

First up, after returning to Japan, we met with the Kumiko Mori Flamenco Dance Company, the same group we collaborated with for Japan Week 2012 in Valencia last

year. They were having a concert in Tokyo and since we had such a wonderful experience working with them last time, we were delighted to join them again for a wonderful night of taiko highlighted Spanish rhythms and dance.

Next, our minds were set to the UK. There was some turbulence on our route to London resulting in a slight detour on our journey, yet we ended still having a good time in England. Our first destination was the Lake District, to meet up with John and Dee from Thunder drummers Cumbria, who helped arrange a workshop



*Workshop in Windermere*



*Members of Kita no Taiko hard at work*

warmer, right up to the day we left. Then it was back to England, over to the airport and on the way back to Japan.

The heat and humidity were there to welcome us back with a fully booked weekend in Aichi Prefecture. We started off with a guest appearance in two [Ensemble Liberta](#) concerts at the Ajioka Shimin Theatre (also in Komaki) and at the Higashi Mino Theatre in Nakatsugawa. It is always a pleasure performing with our favorite koto/shakuhachi group, especially with their new arrangement of the famous classical

in the lovely town of Windermere. After a day of hard and satisfying drumming to warm us up in the cool English weather, we headed down to North Tawton, near Exeter, to pass the time training in the peaceful devonshire countryside. Though we did take a slight detour to check out Stonehenge of course.

Two weeks of training passed by and we were on the Ferry to Dublin for a surprise mini-Bootcamp. We must of worked hard in Dublin, because each day that passed by, the weather became sunnier and



*Inadani course members at Asano Taiko workshop*

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piece Sabre Dance by Aram Khachaturian.

A week of intense training followed as we began to prepare for the Saiwai Shimoina as well as the two week Inadani Grand Tour Taiko Course which came just before it. The grand tour was especially exciting this year. Not only did we make our yearly pilgrimage to [Asano Taiko](#) but other highlights included an engaging shakuhachi/koto workshop with Yamada-Sensei and Takeda-Sensei from Ensemble Liberta as well as a trip for a workshop at



*Practicing Shakuhachi and Koto at the Ensemble Liberta workshop*



*Inadani course members at the Shidara workshop*

Our Tokara update comes to a close near the beginning, back in the UK, going through final preparations for the next big event, The Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Yes readers, we are back for another run of performances at C Too Venues for 26 performances in 26 days. So if you are in the area, and have the time to catch one of our shows, we would love to see you there.

[Shidara's](#) dojo, a very famous taiko group based in Toei village in Aichi prefecture. All this, plus the daily practice session sped us right into the end of June and Saiwai Shimoina, which ended up being one of the best festivals yet. Our special guest this year were Hono Odaiko, who are (for those of you that may not know) based out of Asano Taiko. I have very few words to describe the high level of skill and within that group. It was an honor to play alongside them for the encore at the end of the night and has definitely been one of the highlights of the year to date.



*Another Inadani course comes to a close*

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# WADAIKO 遙 TOKARA



ENGLISH



日本語



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Wadaiko Tokara has a new CD!!! Please click  
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[www.tokara.net/info/ttuccd.html](http://www.tokara.net/info/ttuccd.html)

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

### [Performance Schedule](#)

[Tokara on YouTube](#)

[Tokara on Facebook](#)

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## 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 13 - 17, 2012**

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. 2012 marks the sixth anniversary of the Tokara Wadaiko Bootcamp.

Registration details can be found at:

<http://www.tokara.net/tokarabootcamp.pdf>

Thank you for supporting us for the years up to 2012. We look forward to seeing you again in the many years to come.