

WADAIKO 遠 TOKARA

November 2013

Upcoming Performances and Workshops

- **December 31st:** Tokara New Year Mini Concert Hotel Keizan Hirugami Onsen, Achi Village, Nagano Prefecture, Japan
- **January 1st:** Tokara New Year Mini Concert, Seifuuen Hotel, Hirugami Onsen, Achi Village, Nagano Prefecture, Japan
- **January 2nd:** Tokara New Year Mini Concert, Hanaya Hotel, Hirugami Onsen, Achi Village, Nagano Prefecture, Japan
- **April - May:** Canada Tour
- **June 28:** Saiwai Shimoina Wadaiko Festival, Iida City Kouminkan Theatre, Iida City, Nagano Prefecture, Japan
- **July 6:** Kazakoshi World Tour, Kita Bunka Sho Gekijyo Nagoya City, Japan
- **July 25:** Kazakoshi World Tour, Ina City Youth Education Center, Ina City, Japan
- **July 26:** Kazakoshi World Tour, Performing Arts Forum Theater, Takayama City, Japan
- **July 27:** Tengei Japan Tour, Gujo City, Japan

Wrapping it up!

Written by Dean Havixbeck.

Hello again. It's time for another installment of the Tokara newsletter. October was another busy month, with workshops in Holland, Germany, Japan Week in Poznan, Poland and our final concert for the European tour in Mönchengladbach, Germany. So let's get into some details and see what we've been up to.



Another workshop in Mönchengladbach

Two days after our [Frankfurt adventure](#), we returned to our comfy little apartment in



Tokara with Circle Percussion and workshop participants

forward to working with them again in the future.

A few days later, and we were on our way to Poland for Japan Week in Poznan. This has been our third appearance in this festival and from the way the week went, it was another successful display of Japanese culture for a country to experience. As none of us have been to Poland before, we were wide eyed by the sights, and sounds of Poznan, the language, the currency, the architecture all had us pointing and clicking our cameras while walking the streets from



Art Lee receiving a certificate of participation at Japan Week opening ceremonies

Mönchengladbach and another round of workshops in the studio on the first floor. A big thanks to BIS Zentrum for again assisting in arranging our workshops, concerts, and accommodations.

A week later and we found ourselves in Holland, and another day of workshops at the dojo of Circle Percussion. This was exciting for us as it was the first time we had met the members of Circle Percussion. They have a long history of performing in Holland, having recently celebrated their 40th anniversary. It was a pleasure to host the workshop in their dojo and we look



Poznan city hall

one event to the other.

We started the festivities at the opening ceremonies concert in the courtyard of the Imperial Castle. The castle had been converted into a beautiful theatre complex and was the central location of the main festivities for the first couple of days. You can catch a glimpse of our set [here](#).

With the outdoor show and rehearsal for the evening concert completed, the opening ceremonies commenced with speeches in both Japanese and Polish. It is a highly interesting experience using two

languages to communicate and neither of them being your native language. It really gives you the feeling of international exchange taking place.

After the opening ceremonies came the reception... and the food. Oh Polish cuisine is something to experience. Myself, coming from a partly Polish background, I was excited to sample some authentic pierogies, (stuffed dumplings) though there were a number of different meats, fish, salads, soups and breads to please the palate.



Outside Teatr Wielki, (The Grand Theatre)

concerts. But before that, we took a trip to Nicolaus Copernicus Primary School for a couple of shows and workshops. As I have probably said in the past, school shows are a lot of fun. Children have no reservations when it comes to engaging with the performance. They give as much energy back as you can give out and for a performer, that is a pretty good feeling to experience. It was also quite touching having so many children queuing up for autographs before we left.



Workshop at Nicolaus Copernicus Primary School

No sooner did we leave the banquet area and the evening concert was under way. It was a colourful preview of the acts and performances that the city would be able to view throughout the weeks festivities. Our performance was in the final set of the night, playing for an audience full of thunderous applause. We had two performances in the castle over the next 3 days, with a one day break scheduled between, giving us a chance to take in the sights and sounds of Poznan.

After our concerts at the castle were finished, we moved over to Teatr Wielki where we would have our final two



Inside the dressing room after rehearsal



Collaboration with Fujishiro Michihiro

From the school, we trekked over to Teatr Wielki to prepare for our remaining performances. In our first show, Japan Week organisers had arranged for us a collaboration with contemporary dancer Fujishiro Michihiro. He was able to blend his style of dance into our piece, (Nagisa Monogatari), with a skill that spoke of years of study behind him.

And before we knew it, the end of our exciting trip to Poznan was here. Though for this performance, we had a special arrangement we were able to ask the

audience to remain after the show, and snapped a photo that perfectly sums up our Japan Week experiences in Poznan. You can scroll down to the next page and you will see what I mean.

With Japan Week wrapped up we began our return drive, (we always drive whenever possible), to Mönchengladbach but not before stopping in Berlin for a weekend workshop hosted by the members of Wasabi Daiko.



Working on form during workshop in Berlin

As with all tours, the end approaches sooner or later, and we were lucky to have another chance to perform at BIS Zentrum



Performing at BIS-Zentrum in Mönchengladbach

before departing for the long journey home. It was the perfect place to bring an end to a four month European tour. That night we played for a highly energetic audience that would have got up and started to play with us if they could have. You couldn't ask for a better way to bring the tour to a close.

Which brings us to another conclusion of the Wadaiko Tokara newsletter. Don't forget to check the upcoming concerts list at the top and please feel free to browse to the host of links and information listed below. remember, you can find us on

[Facebook](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) and visit our website at www.tokara.net. If you have any questions or wish to contact us for any reason, please write to us at info@tokara.net. Until next time, stay warm, and enjoy the coming winter season!



Tokara with audience after the last performance for Japan Week at Teatr Wielki (The Grand Theatre) in Poznan

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Check out Wadaiko Tokara's first CD!!! Please
click on the link below to get your copy today!

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](#)

[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

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

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