

WADAIKO 遥 TOKARA

Autum 2014

Upcoming Performances

September 20
DubbelConcert - with Feniks Taiko
[Zaal Zirkus](#) 19:00

September 25
Kazakoshi Concert
[BIS Zentrum für offene Kulturarbeit](#)
Mönchengladbach, Deutschland 20:00

October 19
Kazakoshi Concert
[BIS Zentrum für offene Kulturarbeit](#)
Mönchengladbach, Deutschland 20:00

October 22
Japan Week - Japan/Switzerland Week of
Friendship Exchange
Zentrum Paul Klee
Bern, Switzerland 19:00

October 25
Japan Week - Japan/Switzerland Week of
Friendship Exchange
Zentrum Paul Klee
Bern, Switzerland 17:00

October 27
Japan Week - Japan/Switzerland Week of
Friendship Exchange
Kultur Casino
Bern, Switzerland 19:00

November 1
DubbelConcert - with Feniks Taiko
Zaal Comédie Volter

November 14
Kazakoshi Concert
[BIS Zentrum für offene Kulturarbeit](#)
Mönchengladbach, Deutschland 20:00

December 23
Haruka naru Hibiki
Kani City, Japan 16:30

Upcoming Workshops



Summer Vibe

Written by Dean Havixbeck.



Ensemble Liberta and Wadaiko Tokara

Hello again. Ready for another seasonal update from Wadaiko Tokara? Well, the summer tour has been a fantastic whirlwind as usual and left us with a few surprises. The schedule was packed and had us driving all over central Honshu Island, touring not one concert series but two: Kazakoshi and Haruka Naru Hibiki. Both of these concert series had us travelling with our wonderful musical companions Ensemble Liberta. Lets's take a closer look at some of those memorable moments.



2014 Inadani Wadaiko Course participants

After returning to Japan from the Canadian portion of this year's Kazakoshi tour, we barely had time to land before finding ourselves onstage in Nakatsugawa, guest performing with Ensemble Liberta in the first Haruka Naru Hibiki concert in Japan.

A workshop and a few rehearsals later, we were once again hosting a number of excited taiko enthusiasts for our annual Inadani Wadaiko course. This year we had

nineteen participants in attendance from five different countries giving their all in a sweaty, blistering, muscle aching week of taiko joy. Of course no Inadani course is complete without a trip to Asano Taiko, the taiko world's top taiko manufacturer.

The week concluded with the 9th annual Saiwai Shimoina Wadaiko Festival. It was a reverberating filled day starting with ten groups performing in the morning fringe festival, followed by the evening Super Show. Tokara warmed up the crowd for an amazing lineup: Iida city's Wadaiko Stage Crew Ginyudaijin, followed by Belgium's Feniks Taiko and closing with Kodo's Hanayui. Wrapping it up was an encore with a fusion of the four groups, resulting in one unforgettable performance. Definitely a night to remember! The Saiwai Shimoina Wadaiko Festival will be celebrating it's 10th anniversary next year, so stay tuned to Tokara's news feeds for upcoming information. The lineup promises to be an exciting one!



Saiwai Shimoina Super Show encore



Saiwai Shimoina Wadaiko Festival: 9 years

The Super Show (and after party) had barely finished and we were back into the double tour the next morning. This was the beginning of twelve performances stretched across the next six weeks. We had concerts in Komaki, Yokohama, Nagoya, Iida, Gujo, Osaka, Tokyo, Ina, Takayama, Yaotsu, Kasugai and ending in Kawagoe.

It was a blur of adventure to say the least, with a couple of interesting moments to highlight. At our Ina performance Mr. Asano himself, from Asano Taiko, had attended the show unannounced which was a delightful surprise for us. Then the next day, while we were in rehearsals for our performance in Takayama, one of the original founding members of Tokara, Matthew Steitle, seemed to appear from nowhere to wish us well for the upcoming show. We were shocked with joy to say the least and immediately threw him into our rehearsal of Hatou no Hibiki.



Ensemble Liberta and Tokara in concert

As the summer began to retreat our Japan leg of the tour came to a close. No need to despair however because right around the corner was the Tokara Wadaiko Bootcamp! Participants came to Japan from five different countries, and held their own during this extremely humid time of year. This year's bootcamp participants had a chance to move beyond taiko drums, with afternoon workshops from Ensemble Liberta's very own Tenzan Yamada, (shakuhachi) and Kazuko Takeda, (koto). The following day some of the participants ventured out into the pouring rain to see the Otaiko Hibiki Matsuri, a long running taiko festival in Ishikawa Prefecture. It was a long day full rain, yet that did not deter us nor the crowd from huddling under umbrellas and tarps to catch their favourite taiko group in performance.

catch their favourite taiko group in performance.



Tokara members from afar unite!

Finally, in true Tokara style, we finished our Japan tour headlining at the Oscho Matsuri in Awazu onsen, Ishikawa prefecture. It was a sweltering hot day and extremely humid in the evening, yet the crowd was as energetic as ever. A great ending to the tour before heading out to Europe the next morning.

A quick respite to relocate and we are off to a great start here in Europe. Already we have had one show at Biz Zentrum in Mochengladbach, performing for an extremely energetic crowd that always seems to fill that theatre.

If you missed that performance however, do not worry. We have plenty of performances and workshops in the schedule ahead to bring the final leg of the Kazakoshi tour. You can find all the details you need in the links at the beginning and end of this newsletter, as well as our regular outlets for all things Tokara: Our website, Facebook, twitter and our mailing list.



2014 Tokara Bootcamp Participants with Ensemble Liberta

Also don't forget, we have DVDs and CDs for sale as well as the Wadaiko Tokara World Tour Photo Booklet. It's full of stunning and breathtaking photos taken along our 2013 portion of our tour. Proceeds from purchasing this booklet go towards our 10,000 Photo Booklets for School Performances, a program we have developed to offer free educational performances to schools who do not have the funds available to access cultural or arts programs.



Until next time, take care and have fun!

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Check out Wadaiko Tokara's first CD and DVD



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

[Performance Schedule](#)

[Tokara on YouTube](#)

[Tokara on Facebook](#)

[Tokara on Twitter](#)

Upcoming Workshops and Classes

WORKSHOPS IN GERMANY!

Make sure to check out all the workshops on offer during
our stay in Germany. Click on the links below for details
on workshop dates and times as well as registration.

[Kenka Daiko](#)

[Niji Matsuri](#)

[Silk Road Part II](#)

[The Ultimate Miyake Daiko](#)

[Chichibu Yatai Bayashi](#)

[Yokosuke Uta: SOLD OUT](#)

INADANI TAIKO DRUMMING COURSE GRAND TOUR

Beginners/Intermediate Course

June 22 - 27, 2015

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

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