

WADAIKO 遥 TOKARA

Summer 2014

Upcoming Performances

Kazakoshi World Tour

July 6, 2014 - 15:00
Nagoya Kita Bunka Sho Gekijyo
Nagoya City, Japan

July 12, 2014 - 18:30
Iida Kouminkan Theater
Iida City, Nagano Prefecture, Japan

July 25, 2014 - 19:00
Ina City Youth Education Centre
Ina City, Nagano Prefecture, Japan

July 26, 2014 - 19:00
Performing Arts Forum Theatre
Takayama City, Japan
Yaotsu, Gifu Prefecture, Japan

Saiwai Shimoina Wadaiko Festival

June 28
Iida City Kouminkan Theatre
Iida City, Nagano Prefecture, Japan

September - December

Kazakoshi Europe Tour

Haruka Naru Hibiki Japan Tour

Hibiki
June 29
Komaki Toubu Shimin Center Theater
Komaki City, Aichi Prefecture, Japan

July 13
Nihon Manmanaka Center Theater
Gujō City, Gifu Prefecture, Japan

July 18
Yao City Culture Centre Theatre
Osaka, Japan

July 27
Yaotsu Community Centre Theatre
Yaotsu, Gifu Prefecture, Japan

August 1
Kasugai Toubu Shimin Center Theater
Kasugai City, Aichi Prefecture, Japan

August 2
Kawagoe Aiai Center Theatre
Kawagoe, Mie Prefecture, Ja



2014 World Tour posters



Cherry blossom season in Iida City

The Tour Continues

Written by Dean Havixbeck.

We are back in Japan and it is hot. Really hot. Apparently temperature records are being broken for records that go as far back as the temperature has been recorded. Which is interesting because while returning to Japan after finishing the Canadian portion of our Kazakoshi tour, we drove into the middle of a

snowstorm! Yes, dear readers, May 28th and we were dealing with hazardous winter driving conditions for about an hour of our four hour trip to the airport. By time we arrived at Vancouver airport the weather changed back into summer conditions, as if we all dreamt the entire episode.



In Kelowna



In the mountains



At the airport

Speaking of tours, we had another excellent time during our stay in Kelowna. Once again we were lucky enough to be able to use the Bennett Estate club house as our living space and settled in to prepare for the schedule ahead.

The first week was lined up with a number of school shows. Our destinations were AS Matheson Elementary, Chief Tomat Elementary and Rutland Senior High school. We even had a chance to make a cameo performance in Kelowna Secondary School's annual air band competition, a very intense competition with a packed audience that made us feel like we were at a rock festival. After that, a small radio performance spot on the morning show of Juice 103.9FM and the word was out that Tokara was back.

Our first concert in Kelowna was the official start of the Kazakoshi 2014 world tour. Kelowna's very own Yamabiko Taiko Ensemble opened for us and we came out to a lively crowd that maintained their



Workshop and Performance at Rutland Senior



Stretching out during Kazakoshi performance

excitement for the duration of the performance.

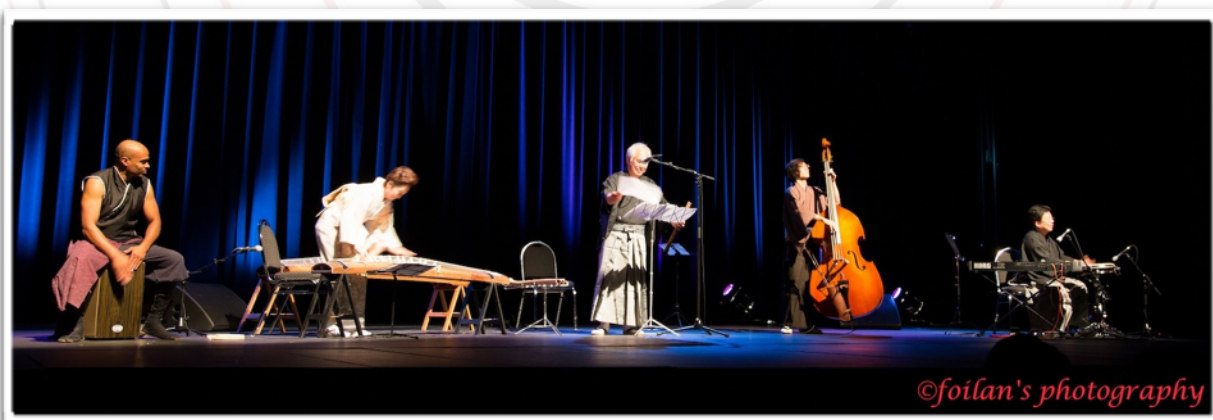
Next was a chance opportunity to collaborate with the Okanagan Symphony Orchestra, who had been preparing to perform their last concert series for the season. The concerts had coincided with the Asian Heritage month celebrations, which set the theme for their show. The concert was full of classical pieces from various asian countries

and we were invited to perform along with Yamabiko Taiko in a piece entitled: Rhapsody for Orchestra, composed by Yuzo Toyama and conducted by Rosemary Thompson. This is an exciting piece of blended Japanese folk songs and we were thrilled to take part. Our friends in Ensemble Liberta were performing with the orchestra as well and after seeing the success of the Rhapsody piece in performance, decided that we should perform the same piece in our upcoming joint concert series in Japan.



Blending into the Okanagan Symphony Orchestra

And with the arrival of Ensemble Liberta, we set our sights on the first Haruki Naru Hibiki performance of 2014. One of the in this show was the audience reaction of the last piece Ensemble Liberta played in the first half. As some of you may or may not know, this year is the 50th anniversary of the Beatles and to celebrate, their song catalog has been made available to the public for free use in 2014. So the Ensemble Liberta members, along with Art Lee, created a melody of Beatles songs to perform. The audience was so delighted by the melody that they not only gave the performers a standing ovation, they began to



Art Lee with Ensemble Liberta in concert



Learning new ways to play Chichibu Yatai Bayashi

shout for an encore even though we were only at the end of the first half. They were quite pleased to hear that a whole second half awaited them after intermission.

With the first Haruka Naru Hibiki performance wrapped up, we settled into a few days of training and a bit of sightseeing before hosting one last workshop series, which brought our Canadian tour to a close. A heartfelt thank you goes out to Ken Fix from the Komatsu Japanese Market, who was

essential in making our Canadian tour a success and to the residents of the Bennett Estates for letting us reside there during our stay.

Once again we are up to date on our travels and adventures of Wadaiko Tokara however, there is much more to come. At the start of this newsletter there are dates of all of our up and coming performances. You can continue to follow us via our website, Facebook and Twitter, which you can find in the details below. Also don't forget that we have a beautiful photo booklet on sale which contains some of the highlights of our travels. Just click on the booklet cover below to order your copy. Until next time, enjoy the summer and see you out there on the road!



WADAIKO 遙 TOKARA



Contact Wadaiko Tokara Japan: Address:

3598 Misajiro, Matsuo, Iida City
Nagano Prefecture 〒395-0826

TEL/FAX: (81) 265-59-8768

Email: info@tokara.net

OR

wadaiko.tokara.japan@gmail.com

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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

The Inadani Taiko Drumming Course is full. If
you are still interested in attending one of
Tokara's workshops in Japan, you can always
look in to:

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.