

Wadaiko Tokara News

June 2012

Upcoming Performances

- **July 21st:** [Saiwai Shimoina Wadaiko Festival](#)
 - Fringe festival - 10:00am
 - Super show - 6:30pm
- **August 1st - 30th:** Hirugami no Hibiki - Tokara one month performances, Achi village, Nagano Prefecture
- **August 19th:** Art Lee Odaiko Performance - Aoyama Gekijyo, Tokyo November, December: Tokara Europe Tour

Workshops:

- August 13th - 17th, 2012: [Wadaiko Tokara Bootcamp](#)

Where did June go?

Written by Dean Havixbeck.



Tokara in Delhi, India

Hello again, and welcome to another installment of the Wadaiko Tokara newsletter. Since our last encounter, 2 concerts have flown by and a workshop is up and coming. We will get into those details in a bit, but first there was an event I would like to mention which I forgot to add in the previous newsletter.

Wadaiko Tokara travelled to India for two performances at a wedding in February of this year. On a side note, it is common in for wedding celebrations in India to last up to three days!! Traveling to India is always exciting, though this trip was especially so for two reasons; First, because Tokara was joined by

members from Art Lee's Iida festival group Nadeshiko for their first international performance. Second, due to complications in regards to acquiring visas, Yukari had to lead the group for the first time. She did a fantastic job in the lead position and the group's performance was excellent. So a shout out to them for a job well done.

And from that, we move onto the June concerts. Most of May was spent training for the upcoming shows. In addition to practices we have been making our exercise set, (50 pushups, 200 sit-ups, 100 leg squats) a regular morning routine. However, since Art sensei will be performing in the Tokyo Contest All-Stars Concert on August 19th, he has decided to add steps (see picture to the right) into our routine. Unfortunately the picture doesn't do it justice. What you see in that picture is 298 steps, stretching up to Inuma Shrine, at approximately a fifty-five degree angle. and though we have been climbing these steps for around two months now, every time I see them they do not become less intimidating.



A short rest between performances



Steps at Inuma Shrine, Iida



Ensemble Liberta Rehearsal

Oh yes, the concerts. First up was our show in Nagoya, where we were joined by our wonderful friends, Ensemble Rivelta, for another performance of Tenchi Shinmei. Members of Tokara helped as staff for an Ensemble Rivelta performance the day before, with Art sensei joining as a guest



Tokara performing "Hatou no Hibiki" in Nagoya

groups for Nihon no Wadaiko Hibiki En, a concert produced by Dosshin. The other guest group in this show was Ryukyu Koku Matsuri Daiko who traveled all the way from Okinawa to perform. We had a great time, and even had a moment to take a quick tour of Matsuri no Mori a museum near the theater that hosts the world largest Odaiko, measuring three hundred eighteen centimeters!



World's largest Odaiko, Takayama

performer. The Sunday show was Tokara's first concert since our January tour in the US and it was nice to be back on stage performing for an audience. We had a wonderful time as we always do in Nagoya and thankfully, the weather was kinder to us this time, so we did not have to load our gear after the show in the middle of a typhoon.

Two weeks after Nagoya we travelled to Takayama city to perform as one of the guest



In the dressing room before the set in Takayama

The fun/busy schedule didn't stop there however. Next up was our annual Inadani Taiko Drumming course which was in the last week of June. We had a full house this year with 24 students coming from seven different countries. Highlights from this year's course (besides really intense drumming every day) included a one day workshop at Osuwa Daiko, where students were taught the famous piece Hiryu Sandan Gaeshi by Grandmaster Daihachi Oguchi's



Making mochi (ricecake) for dinner



Arriving at Osuwa Daiko

grandson Makoto Yamamoto. This workshop was streamed live via ustream, and coincided with the launch of the Hiryu Project. (There are 22 uploads of the piece connected to this project to date.) and who could forget the trip to Asano Daiko, the taiko drummer's candy store. An exciting way to spend on the last day of the course. But that wasn't all. Those participants that stayed for the free day on Saturday were treated to another amazing performance by Ensemble Rivelta who had a show that night at the Ena Grand Hotel. It is always a pleasure to see them perform and was an excellent way to end an already spectacular week.



Shime tying before training

And that brings us up to date with the adventures of Wadaiko Tokara. If you haven't already, please check the dates above or on our website for upcoming performances and workshops. We would love to see you out

there. And if you love our music, our new cd is available for purchase from our website, as well as our very first DVD. Until next time, take care, have fun, and drum as much as you can!



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

Wadaiko Artist Art Lee 藝李
Wadaiko Ensemble 遙Tokara遙

Wadaiko Tokara has a new 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 2011 tour,
follow the links below to subscribe to the Tokara
podcasts:

- Europe Tour Video Podcast
- 2011 World Tour Audio Podcast

[Tokara Official Website](#)

[Performance Schedule](#)

[Tokara on YouTube](#)

[Tokara on Facebook](#)

Upcoming Workshops and Classes

INADANI TAIKO DRUMMING COURSE

GRAND TOUR

Beginners/Intermediate Course

June 17 - 22, 2013

June 24 - 29, 2013

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
Japan - Nagano Prefecture. 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 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>