

Wadaiko Tokara News

May 2012

Upcoming Performances

- **June 3rd:** Tenchi Shinmei - Nagoya concert, Kita Bunka Shogekijyo
- **June 17th:** Takayama City Taiko Festival
- **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:

- June 25th - 29th, 2012: [Inadani Taiko Drumming Course](#)
- August 13th - 17th, 2012: [Wadaiko Tokara Bootcamp](#)



Art and Yukari hard at work in the office

Time Flies

Written by Dean Havixbeck.

Hello everyone, Welcome to another installment of the Tokara Newsletter. We have a number of stories and exciting things to tell you about, so let's get started shall we?

March seemed to be all about the office, which found us creating a number of much needed documents full of information about Tokara and taiko. Some of the files were made for present and future individuals who would wish to become a member of Tokara, while others were created for those lucky people who will be participating in the annual workshops in the

summer. And of course, as is usual in Tokara, all such documents need to be prepared in both Japanese and English.

In between all of this we were practicing hard for the DVD shoot in April. Now for those of you that do not already know, Tokara is in the process of making two DVDs which we started on April 2nd. The first one will be a performance of many of the pieces that we recorded on our CD which was released last month. The second DVD will be of the much sought after and well received taiko drill, Taiko Stairmaster. This exercise consists of 7 different levels and will develop the taiko practitioners ability to play equally well with both left and right hands. Many people are anticipating the release of these DVDs. We are now in post filming production, so expect them to be out within the next few months.

While preparing to film these DVDs, we decided to try something new. We opened the project for donations on Kickstarter in the hopes that we could raise enough funds for production. We set a target of \$8,500 to fund the project, but we were not able to reach our target so the money raised was automatically refunded by the Kickstarter website. However, we opened the same fundraising project on a new website: <http://www.indiegogo.com/Tokaras-First-DVD-Ever> We had the same target amount, although on this site, we were allowed to keep whatever funds we did raise, even if we weren't able to reach our goal. The project on this site expired as of May 1st, and we are happy to announce that we raised over \$900.00. Our sincerest thanks go out to all of those who have made donations and who have helped spread the word about this project.



Tokara DVD Jacket



Art preparing for Stairmaster shoot



Yukari preparing to perform Miyake Daiko

The filming for the DVDs brought us flying into April. One week we were filming, and the next we were editing. A very interesting process by the way, for those of you who have not had the chance experience it. It gives one a new appreciation for the amount of work that goes into creating a video.

So with the DVD shoot wrapped and moved into post production, we began to focus on our Japan concerts and upcoming workshops. This kept the members and students of Tokara busy into May as Art Lee

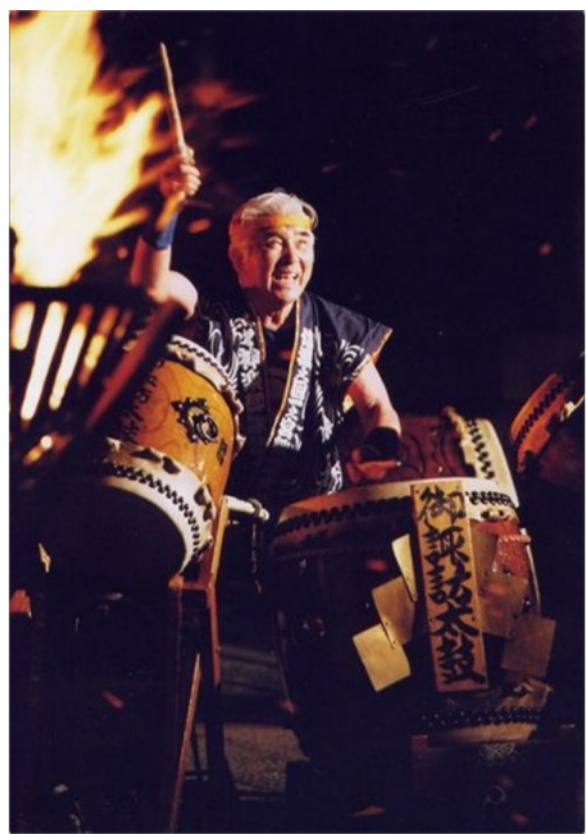
flew off to Canada for eight performances and four workshops in beautiful British Columbia, mainly in Kelowna and Vancouver. This trip proved to be well received, and those in the area can expect to see Art returning with Tokara in the spring of 2013. Details will be available in the months to follow.



Art Lee's workshop for school teachers



Benefit concert, Vancouver, Canada



Grandmaster Daihachi Oguchi Sensei in Concert

And finally, we have another event that has been announced which should prove to be quite exciting; The Hiryu Project. This project is in collaboration with Grandmaster Daihachi Oguchi's daughter, Kasumi-san, grandson, Makoto-san and Osuwa Daiko. As some of you may know, the taiko piece, "Hiryu Sandan Gaeshi", written by Grandmaster Daihachi Oguchi is one of the most well-known and commonly practiced and performed taiko pieces among every level of groups, particularly in North America. Not only is it a piece which is semi-open-source (free to learn, rehearse and perform not-for-remuneration), but it is also the theme piece of the Japan Taiko Foundation and possibly the most well-known taiko piece around the world.

On June 27th, the day of Oguchi-sensei's passing, Osuwa Daiko will perform this piece in celebration of his life and his

commitment to spreading taiko around the world. On June 27th, 2012, taiko groups around the world are invited to perform this piece, whether in rehearsal, performance in any place. Then, if you can send a link to your performance via youtube, vimeo and the like, it will be embedded on the "Hiryu Project" website.

If you don't know the piece, "Hiryu Sandan Gaeshi", here is a video link from which you are welcome to learn and play the piece: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sNaVWB61-Ts> Also, there is a similar version arranged in the Ohayashi backbeat style by Grandmaster Seiichi Tanaka, who was Oguchi-sensei's student before moving to the United States. This style is most popular around North America. Any style is welcome. It will be fun for Osuwa Daiko to see how "Hiryu Sandan Gaeshi" has spread around the world. We wish you to have fun and support this project, not with money, but with your love and intensity for this wonderful performing art that has become wadaiko.



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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

Beginners/Intermediate Course

June 25 - 29, 2012

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>