

# TOKARA NEWS



**Yay!! We Made It!!**



New Costume for 2019 - just before the show!!



Seascape Taiko Workshop for Kids

Hello Everyone! We are happy to see you again, and to happily say that we made it to our 15th Anniversary. That seems like a relatively very young age for a taiko performance group, but so much has happened that it almost seems like 30 years. I can only repeat what I've said in the last newsletter, that we could not have had such an eventful 15 years without each and every person who has attended our concerts, workshops and intensives. And we certainly cannot forget all of the people who send kind messages and feedback to us after each event.

The end of August through mid-February brought about a few new endeavors for us:

**Taiko CrossRoads** debuted at the end of August 2018. This was quite a massive undertaking in that it is essentially the creation of the first ever **Japan Taiko Conference**.

For most of our weeklong intensive courses, Tokara members are the teachers. Styles and pieces come mainly from our own repertoire. However, this was the first time where we stepped back as the main instructors and instead introduced a variety of professional taiko artists from various backgrounds, all very well known in Japan, but not so much in other countries.

Among many different styles, participants had the rare chance to learn the traditional style of Odaiko performance. This was definitely one of the highlights of the week for many of the participants.

Another very memorable moment was our first concert in Iida for our 15th Anniversary Tour. Winter in Nagano Prefecture, while cold, is mainly sunny almost every day, which is a big reason why there are many tourists from other countries with constant rain and snow in the winter. However, on this day, February 9th, the snow

came down, and we were somewhat worried that the audience would dwindle. How pleasantly surprised we were when, as the curtain lifted, we could see a sea of faces with smiles. We were particularly happy that many of those in the audience were children who continuously clapped and laughed during the performance (there was more than the usual amount of humour in the show).

It was a tough but fun schedule for the two week program: Adult workshops, two concerts which had two different programs in one day, two kids workshops, and school performances. All kids events were free for this project.



### **UPCOMING!!**

We are continuing on our 15th Anniversary Tour Seascape (Umi no Fuukei) as well as other performances in our upcoming 2019 schedule.

This year is the **INADANI Taiko Course GRAND TOUR**, the two week taiko course for all levels. This is always a highlight for participants, and for us as it only happens once every three years.

We have also been hard at work as we come close to our performance of Maki Ishii's "Monoprism" with the Okanagan Symphony Orchestra in Canada in May. Just two days after this performance, the first Tokara Bootcamp in North America takes place for one week with a **concert** on the 17th.



[TOKARA Website](#)

[Tour Pictures](#)

[Video](#)

*Click any underlined text to link to websites*

## **15th Anniversary Tour**

**February 9**

**Seascape "Umi no Fuukei"**

Iida Community Theater  
Iida City, Nagano, Japan

**April 13, 14**

**Narita Taiko Festival**

Narita City, Chiba Prefecture  
Japan

**May 10, 11**

**Monoprism with the  
Okanagan Symphony Orchestra**

Kelowna City, Vernon City  
B.C., Canada

**May 13 - 17**

**Tokara Bootcamp NA**

Kelowna Forum  
Kelowna City, Canada

**May 17**

**Seascape Performance**

Kelowna Forum  
Kelowna City, Canada

**May 31**

**Seascape "Umi no Fuukei"**

Chikusa Enkei Gekijyo  
Nagoya City, Japan

**June 17 - 29**

**INADANI Taiko Course  
GRAND TOUR**

Iida Community Center Theater  
Iida City, Japan

**June 29**

**Saiwai Shimoina  
Wadaiko Festival**

Iida Community Center Theater  
Iida City, Japan

**July 6**

**Seascape "Umi no Fuukei"**

Kani Performing Arts Theater  
Kani City, Japan

**August 26 - 31**

**Taiko CrossRoads**

Iida Community Center Theater  
Iida City, Japan