

WADAIKO 遥 TOKARA

May 2013

Upcoming Performances and Workshops

- **June 17th - 28th:** Inadani Taiko Drumming Course GRAND TOUR,
Achi Village, Nagano-ken, Japan.
- **June 29th:** Saiwai Shimoina Wadaiko Festival
Iida City Kouminkan, Iida City, Nagano-ken, Japan
- **August 1st - 26th:** Kazakoshi performances at Edinburgh Fringe Festival in
C too main house, Edinburgh, Scotland



Chad Przymus working with students in the Marshall Beats percussion ensemble

Touring Like Nobody's Business

Written by Dean Havixbeck.

So here we are again, on the plane, flying from Vancouver back to Japan in the middle of our whirlwind tour with a month behind us packed full of activities. For those of you following our adventures, we left you talking about the 1001 Buddhas project, and our concert at the Dreamland Arts Theatre in St. Paul.

After those wonderful events behind us, we had a couple of days to rest and prepare for the last leg of the North American tour.

Our next destination was in Marshall, Minnesota where we performed as guests in Marshall High School's Beats percussion ensemble performance aptly titled "The Beaten Path". A big thanks goes out to Chad Przymus, the director of the Marshall MN percussion program. After a conversation with Art sensei after an evening of hard training during Wadaiko Bootcamp in Japan last year, Chad arranged for us to guest spot in the performance. And an exciting performance it was. We started off with a couple of workshops and a short performance at the Marshall Middle School. This helped to bring in nearly full house crowds for both Saturday and Sunday, not that it was needed however since the performance of the 60 members in the Beats



Members of Kita no Taiko hard at work

incredibly hard to produce an evening of taiko at the Capitol Theatre. Our lineup was a gathering of groups around the province which included Booming Tree, Kita no Taiko who are also from Edmonton, Hibikiya from Lethbridge and one determined member representing Midnight Taiko from Calgary, who braved the spring snow stormy roads between Calgary and Edmonton to perform in the concert. The day before the show however, we took a quick trip the West Edmonton Mall, since we visited the Mall of America while in Minneapolis, for comparison. Then we started concert day with a morning workshop with Kita no Taiko and the aforementioned snow storm. We had a good time getting to know them before the evening show. Once at the theatre, we heard the news that due to the terrible road conditions, Midnight Taiko was unable to attend the performance. Yet the one member who

program could easily fill their wonderful theatre on their own. The result was two nights packed with a variety of percussive pieces with a collaboration for the climax that lead to standing ovations.

We left Marshall in a wake of percussive beats, and began our trek up north to Edmonton, Alberta, following the tail end of winter it seemed and met up with Greg and Twilla from Booming Tree who worked



Outside the Capitol Theatre in Edmonton



Tokara and Midnight Taiko

was able to make the show represented his group well as he joined in with a multi-group rendition of Matsuri Daiko. Despite the weather, we had a nearly full house making for a memorable night of taiko. The next day, with the weather improving, we travelled down to Calgary and had a workshop followed by a delicious dinner with Midnight Taiko. We were glad that we had the chance to visit with them.

The day after that, we found ourselves on the Trans Canada Highway heading into the Rocky Mountain range to Kelowna, our final stop on the North American portion of our tour. Kelowna was an oddity of beautiful weather after leaving the prairies still locked in winter. We had a wonderful time there and proceeded to work through our packed schedule of school performances at eight different locations, an intense and rewarding 2 day Taiko Stairmaster workshop with Yamabiko taiko, and finished off with a "Kazakoshi" concert at the Kelowna Community Centre. With the help of Ken Fix, the owner of Komatsu Japanese Market



Outside our residence in Kelowna



Members of Yamabiko taiko during the Taiko Stairmaster workshop

in Kelowna, we were able to perform in front of a nearly sold out crowd. Yamabiko's opening performance set the energy for a fantastically receptive crowd, especially the little kid near the front row who laughed with glee every time a strong hit came from a taiko. We couldn't ask for a better atmosphere to end the North American portion of our tour, though not before one last school to perform the next day, before packing our bachi and heading back to Japan.

Yes, this tour through the USA and Canada has been memorable to say the least. I am sure I can speak for everyone in the group that we will be looking forward to coming back again!



Tokara and Yamabiko Taiko

WADAIKO 遙 TOKARA



ENGLISH



日本語



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 2013 tour, follow the links below:

[Performance Schedule](#)

[Tokara on YouTube](#)

[Tokara on Facebook](#)

[Tokara on Twitter](#)

Thank you for supporting us for the years up to 2013. We look forward to seeing you again in the many years to come.

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 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

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