

## TAIKO DRUM PERFORMERS:

Heidi Auman  
Joshua Barron  
Jackie Bice  
Raelene Callaway  
Keryn Fountain  
Belinda Graudins  
Sam Graudins  
Maria Grist  
Akiko Hara  
Lesli Hokanson  
Jacinta Lesek  
Janan Sykes  
Simon Vanyai  
Tyler Walsh  
Lara Wasilewski  
Ng Yyan

## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR:

Simon Vanyai

Thanks to the ABC for making this event possible.  
Also thanks to Jill Hudson, Danielle Stokes, Gail Joyce  
and our stage helpers.

TUUTS sponsors include (L-R): Tasmania University Union, Australia-Japan Society, Web Angels business Internet service, Tascon Constructions, the Japan Club, Michael Cooper and Associates (Architects) and the Tasmanian Community Fund.



# TAIKO DRUM



## ABC SUNDAY LIVE

Federation Concert Hall  
HOBART

22 July 2007 3.00 pm

[www.taikodrum.com](http://www.taikodrum.com)

## Tatakou

(Simon Vanyai)

*"Tatakou" is an energizing shout of encouragement to spur a drummer on. It calls on players to "beat with every living essence of your being.!!!" It can also be interpreted as enticing invitation: "Let's Play."*

## Odaiko – Sakura

(Traditional + Simon Vanyai)

*The grand Odaiko, the emperor of taiko drums, demands respect from both audience and performer. The drummer approaches like a pilgrim to the revered altar of rhythm, dwarfed by the size and majesty of this colossal instrument.*

## Seijyaku No Wa

(Simon Vanyai)

*This was the first original piece performed by the group in 2002. The title, "Harmony of Silence", reflects the quality of "ma" or (space) in the music. Simple rhythms are layered to produce a powerful and memorable impression.*

## Jangaru

(Simon Vanyai)

*This piece was inspired by nature, and the drummers' movements are an expression of wildlife interacting within a surreal jungle landscape. The movements define the rhythms, and the beats exude the tribal jungle spirit.*

## Soran

(Traditional arr. Taiko Drum)

*This traditional sea shanty from Japan depicts fishermen hauling on their nets while singing about the seagulls and the waves.*

## Matsuriki

(Simon Vanyai)

*This fast and complex contemporary number is the signature piece of our elite performing ensemble. Its polyrhythms require the ultimate in unity and synchronisation. The name "Matsuriki" combines the words "Festival" and "Power".*

## Matsuri

(Traditional arr. Simon Vanyai)

*Matsuri bayashi rhythms can be heard in festivals throughout Japan. These rhythms were originally played as an accompaniment to bon odori (folk dances), to encourage visiting spirits to go back to the spirit world for another year.*

## Miyake

(Traditional, arr. Taiko Drum)

*The low horizontal style of drumming of this piece originates from the island of Miyake in Japan. The mesmerizing underlying heartbeat rhythm gradually increases in intensity and speed as solo drummers alternate between rhythm and rest.*

## Yatai Bayashi

(Traditional, arr. Taiko Drum)

*This energizing crowd pleaser is an arrangement of traditional taiko and flute (bayashi) folk music. It was originally performed inside cramped wooden festival floats, without room to stand. This piece is a favourite with taiko players around the world. The cyclic rhythms are played at a blistering pace, testing their skill and endurance.*



The Tasmania University Union Taiko Society was formed in July 2002 to study traditional Japanese drumming, with the intention of using Taiko as a vehicle for promoting friendship and understanding between cultures.

Wadaiko (Japanese drumming) is a rich and diverse cultural tradition. Encapsulating the spirit of ceremonies and festivals of ancient Japan, Taiko has developed into a contemporary performance art, captivating audiences world wide. Modern Taiko drumming is a powerfully dynamic form of percussion which uses stylized actions and synchronised movements to involve the whole body in the performance. Traditional Taiko stems from the spiritual ceremonies and seasonal celebrations of Japan's ancient agricultural society, and today still remains deeply ingrained within the festival culture of Japan. Taiko boldly brings percussion out to centre stage, and creates a dynamic orchestration of rhythm and movement which evokes a primal spirit inside performer and spectator alike.

Simon Vanyai is the leader and teacher of the group. He studied Taiko in Japan for three years and has composed several of the songs you will hear today.

New members are welcome to our practices. Some of today's performers are beginners with only a few months' experience. If you would like to try a beginners' class, please contact us for details.

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