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university of tasmania taiko society

TAIKO  DRUM

presents

- Art Lee -



(taikotecture)  
 art | structure | rhythm

islandstate



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Tasmania  
ARTS TASMANIA



## Wel come . . .

The University of Tasmania Taiko Society are very excited to be presenting to you our first full length Wadaiko Concert. This is the first time in Tasmania that Taiko has been seen with the full stage affects of lights, mikes and sets, and is an exciting development for our group and for Taiko as a performing art in this state.

We also have the pleasure of working with Art Lee, the Wadaiko Sensei of Simon Vanyai, and we are thrilled at the experience of learning from a Wadaiko Master.

We wish to extend a very warm welcome to all of our audience, and sincerely hope that you enjoy the show!

## Thanks . . .

The University of Tasmania Taiko Society would like to thank the Burnie Arts Council for creating the opportunity to bring Taiko Master Art Lee to Tasmania.

The Australia-Japan Society has been instrumental in initiating our Taiko group in Hobart, and we also thank them for their assistance in planning and executing this event.

This concert is the culmination of Mr Lee's 4-week visit to Tasmania, and would not have been possible without the generous contributions of our many supporters and sponsors, in particular our major sponsor, islandstate.

Our thanks also go out to the Tasmanian public, who have been wonderful in continuing to support Taiko as a new and exciting creative art form in this state.

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and printing by

**RICOH**

## Get into Taiko:

### Beginners' Course

5 week training course

Thursday March 9, 16, 23, 30, April 6

**Venue: Huon Quays, Queens Domain.**

**Hobart**

### Junior Course

Starting soon. Ages 10-14.

### Regular Training

Monday - performers

Tuesday - beginner

Wednesday - intermediate

### Weekly Training

Contact Ng Yyan, ph 0431 570 229,

**L'ton**

### Weekly Training

Contact Maria Perez-Pulido, ph (03) 6430 5768,  
email: mperez-pulido@burnie.net

**Burnie**

-----  
**Contact Information**

Simon 0408 434 608  
Maria (03) 6234 9404  
info@taikodrum.com  
**www.taikodrum.com**

c/- TUU  
PO Box 950  
Sandy Bay  
TAS 7005

# Upcoming Events

The Australia-Japan Society will coordinate a program of cultural events throughout 2006

- March** 4th - Japanese students welcome BBQ  
(with TAS International Services + Taiko)
- May** 4th - Childrens Day exchange student welcome to Tasmania
- July** Comemmorative cherry tree plantings
- August** - School visitors from Yaizu (Hobart's Sister City) arrive  
- Japanese Speech Competition  
- 19-26th: Tagaya Kyogen Drama Group from Okayama
- September** Hanami and Mochitsuki under the Cherry Blossoms  
Photo panel project - Winter
- October** - Seniors Week: Sushi for Seniors, Taiko for Seniors  
- 20th: Bunka Koto music group
- November** **Schools Cultural Demonstration Tour**  
Book now to ensure your school's involvement!

more information  
m 0418-546-515

John Kertesz, AJS President  
infotas@austjapanfed.org.au

# (taikotecture)

more than percussion, taiko comprises the spirit of the dance and discipline of martial arts. It is at heart very simple and pure in its foundation; the synchronisation of the movements creates the structure of the music, and the expression of the solos creates a unique art form.  
It is art | structure | rhythm.

## ACT ONE

Tatakou Simon Vanyai

Existension Art Lee

Seijyaku no Wa Simon Vanyai

Onna no Hachijyo Masae Ikegawa

Tazijima Daiko Simon Vanyai

Tane Lara Wasilewski

Nami Daiko Fumiko Plaister

Tombane / Isami Goma Daihachi Oguchi

## intermission

## ACT TWO

Asahi Art Lee

Hachijyo Daiko Traditional

Maturiki Simon Vanyai

Katsugi Matsuri Daiko Simon Vanyai

Jangaru Simon Vanyai

Yatai Bayashi Traditional

# TAIKOz



Presented by Theatre North  
Featuring Shakuhachi  
Grand Master Riley Lee

Princess Theatre, Launceston  
24 August 8pm  
25 August 6.30pm  
Bookings (03) 6323 3666

Like waves in the ocean and thunder in the distance the sound .... Is elemental



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## Taiko Chan

The UTTS are proud to introduce Tasmania's first junior taiko group, 'Taiko Chan'. This group of specially selected young people have committed themselves to studying the art of Japanese drumming under the instruction of Lara Wasilewski and assistant instructor Joshua Barron.

The intensive training program conducted over the summer holiday period was designed to encourage young people's interest in taiko drumming and to foster an appreciation of Japanese culture in Tasmania. Students also received exclusive tuition from taiko master Art Lee – a rare and valuable experience.

As Taiko Chan's ability to learn and play complex taiko rhythms increased rapidly with each session, so too did their confidence and passion for taiko. It is hoped that these promising young drummers will continue to mature in skill as valuable members of UTTS.

### taiko chan performers

Gabby Gonzalez-Forward, Simeon Howe,  
Kalyani Komzak, Madeleine Lette,  
Nicholas Luttrell, Joy McConnochie,  
Tomas Ovens, Emily Reason, Matthew Stanny,  
Janan Sykes, Aliisa Taylor, Kensho Tambara,  
Yuki Tambara, Donna Woods

formation

training

growth

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## Art Lee

Art Lee is the first non-Japanese ever to obtain an artist's visa to teach taiko and lead the life of a professional taiko artist in Japan. He was granted the title Master in 2005, and won the Solo Odaiko section of the Tokyo International Wadaiko Contest.

master

Before becoming a solo artist in 2001, Art was a featured performer with groups including the Sacramento Taiko Dan and one of the top taiko groups in the world, Ondekoza. Utilizing his extensive training in both traditional and modern taiko techniques, Art continues to perform and instruct all over the world.

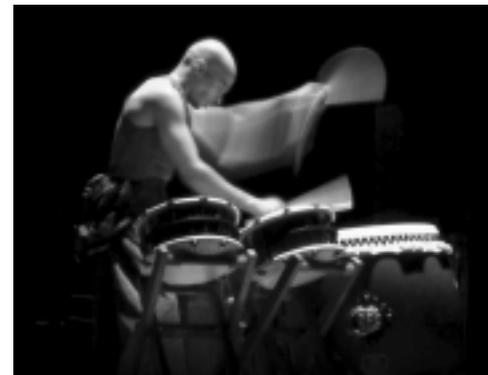
performer

Art is the resident instructor of Koihime Daiko and the leader and artistic director of his own group, Wadaiko Ensemble 'Tokara'. He trains and performs with other percussion including African and Korean groups, and is a member and part-time instructor with Grandmaster Daihachi Oguchi and Osuwa Daiko.

teacher

Art has become most widely known for his Odaiko solos and his unique style while performing on the drum sideways, called Yokomen-uchi.

sol oist





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## Matsuriki

Taiko, or 'wadaiko' as it is known in Japan, is all about festival spirit. From the largest city to the smallest mountain village, these drums are played in a myriad of styles to unite communities in celebration and prayer.

festival  
spirit

The performance group 'Matsuriki' developed as members of the UTTS improved in skill, spirit and discipline. Matsuriki strives to give audiences a rich and precise taiko experience, and provides a new challenge for the most promising taikoists, allowing them to explore complex rhythms and movements.

skill

Matsuriki takes taiko in Tasmania to a higher level, and we hope that this local example of top class taiko will inspire eager taikoists to continue in their development as performers.

the future

Matsuriki are performing their debut today, ahead of their Launceston Festivale performance and a tour of schools in Victoria in early March.

## matsuriki performers

Simon Vanyai  
Lara Wasilewski  
Tyler Walsh  
Joshua Barron  
Maria Grist



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The **Australia-Japan Society (Tasmania) Inc.** has supported Taiko Drum by sponsoring one of its initial wine barrel taiko conversions, and by other advice and assistance in its activities such as the visit of Art Lee. The Society feels that the development of this taiko group in Tasmania represents the sort of grass roots cultural exchange that has long term positive effects on cultural exchange throughout the community.

2006 is the Year of Australia Japan Exchange, a year to celebrate past efforts towards mutual understanding, and an opportunity to establish new connections. The AJS will run an active program of events throughout the year to celebrate this year of exchange.

AJS (Tas) Inc. is a non-political, non-profit organisation that assists people from Tasmania and Japan to understand each other's culture. The Society organises a range of activities and events that cover educational, cultural, social and commercial contexts. It is an incorporated body with an active committee of ten, elected at an annual general meeting in May each year. Visiting Japanese nationals are welcome to participate in the Society, as are any Australians with an interest in Japan.

# Taiko Drum

'Taiko Drum' is the performance arm of the University of Tasmania Taiko Society.

'Taiko' in Japan means 'drum'. **traditional**  
Around the world, taiko is fast becoming synonymous with powerful performance and the tremendous energy it exudes.

'Drum', pronounced Dora-Mu in Japanese, was **tasmanian**  
given the kanji reading of 'tiger dream', representing the uniquely Tasmanian story of the loss of our local icon, the thylacine. The presence of its spirit still holds a powerful place in our identity and respects the indigenous custodians of this land.

In Taiko Drum, we encourage taiko enthusiasts **challenge**  
to experience the thrill of performing as an essential element of their taiko training. Performing enables members to challenge themselves and their nerves in front of an audience, and thus improve and hone their mental and physical skills.

## taiko drum performers

Joshua Barron, Sushila Desai,  
Stephanie Downes, Rasa Dunlop,  
Keryn Fountain, Eric Graudins, Jason Green,  
Maria Grist, Akiko Hara, Lesli  
Hokanson, Armin Howald, Tony Howe,  
Simeon Howe, Jill Hudson, Gail Joyce,  
Imogen Koolhof, Jacinta Leseck,  
Simon Vanyai, Tyler Walsh,



Deck 62  
Bed and Breakfast retreat.

Deck 62 is situated 10 min from the city. It is nestled in the Waterworks Valley just at the foot of Mt. Wellington, overlooking the northerly aspect of the Hobart City lights. Deck 62 provides a peaceful private space with delightful views. There is a spacious timber deck with outdoor setting, BBQ, heating, and shading, for exclusive use of Deck 62 guests.

Features of Deck 62 accommodation include a bedroom which opens out via French doors onto the deck, a fully equipped kitchenette and a bathroom with shower. A continental breakfast basket is provided.

As the owner-operator is a fully qualified massage therapist, special packages are available with a range of treatments.  
Off street parking is available.

## Crew

Lighting Design - Peter Green **theatre**

Stage Design - Simon Vanyai

Props Design - Jason Green

Joshua Barron

Lesli Hokanson

Akiko Hara

Artistic Director - Simon Vanyai

Stage Manager - Rasa Dunlop

Follow Spot Operator - Jacinta Lesek

Stage Hand - Dan Parry

Stage Crew - Kalyani Komzak,

Donna Woods, Greg Downes

Costume Design - Sabrina Evans **costumes**

Uniform Design - Keryn Fountain **uniforms**

Uniform Construction - Karyn Bogus

Drums construction - Tyler Walsh **drums**

Joe Stanny

Janet Bartle

Odaiko - John Murphy,

Tasmanian Cask Company

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The TUU offer advice and advocacy with the aim of enabling students to decide on the best course of action - whatever the problem.

So remember...the TUU exists to help students while they are at uni and we have a team of Student Reps who are more than happy and willing to listen to you and do what we can to make sure you get the most out of your time with us.

All the best for 2006!



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# UTTS

## formation

The University of Tasmania Taiko Society (UTTS) was formed in 2002 as a not-for-profit, University-based, social, cultural and physical activity. It is the first of its kind in Tasmania. The founder of the group is Simon Vanyai, who studied taiko in Japan for two years under Art Lee. In a short time, the group has evolved from using plastic buckets and training in classrooms into a stable organisation performing on an array of traditional, locally made taiko drums. The formation of the UTTS was made possible through the generous support of the Australia Japan Society and Japan Club.

## mission

The main objectives of the UTTS are to promote taiko as a musical art form; to generate cultural awareness and multicultural friendship through taiko; to educate, entertain and engage students and the wider community.

## membership

Taiko attracts people from all walks of life and cultural backgrounds, male and female, from 11 to 60 plus. Members are the lifeblood of the group, and are responsible for all the success that the club has enjoyed and will in the future enjoy. Families also put in a significant contribution, often suffering the absence of busy taiko drummers, and so have our deepest thanks.

## cultural links

By introducing taiko to the Tasmanian community, the UTTS has built and continues to build relationships between Japan and Tasmania and strengthen existing ones, including Hobart's sister city relationship with Yaizu.

# ACT 1

tatakou..... ...simon vanyai...  
'Beat with all your self, play with all your spirit'. Let's play!!!  
Premiere performance.

existension... ...art lee...  
'Existension' is a combination of the words 'Existence' and  
'Extension'. For many, it is not enough to just continue to  
exist, but to grow...whether it be mentally, spiritually or  
otherwise. The ultimate goal of the human race must be to  
better ourselves...the extension of our existence.

seij yaku no wa... ...simon vanyai...  
'Silent Harmony'. This was Taiko Drum's debut performance  
at the University Open Day 2002. Performed for you by our  
keenest new members

onna no hachij yo... ...traditional  
arranged by masae ikegawa...  
A traditional hachijyo style piece.  
Performed by Keryn Fountain and Rasa Dunlop.

tazij ima daiko... ...simon vanyai...  
This physically challenging, low, horizontal style of taiko  
originates from Miyake Island (Miyake-Jima), Japan. The  
rhythm of the heartbeat evokes a sense of 'home'. We  
follow traditional forms, and overlay new rhythms to create  
Tazijima Daiko.

tane..... ...lara wasil ewski...  
'Seeds' represents the youth of Taiko, Taiko Chan. Just  
like seeds, Taiko Chan have rapidly grown in their self-con-  
fidence, discipline and attitude. As they grow together as  
young percussionists, so grows taiko's future in Australia.

nami daiko... ...fumiko plaister...  
Waves ebb and flow, ever reaching higher. Over receding  
trails comes a new wave, foaming with renewed energy.

tombane / isami goma... ...daihachi oguchi...  
Lead drums played by those who trained in Japan with  
Grand Master Daihachi Oguchi from Osuwa Daiko with  
permission. Simon Vanyai, Tyler Walsh, Lara Wasilewski,  
Maria Grist, Keryn Fountain, Akiko Hara.

# ACT 2

...art lee... .....asahi  
The Odaiko, the king of taiko, is the largest, most treasured  
instrument, requiring the most from the performer, both  
physically, spiritually and mentally.

...traditional ... ...hachij yo daiko  
Hachijyo Island is famous for this horizontal taiko style  
played up high. The coordination of the lead drummer and  
the secondary rhythm creates tension.  
Performed by Tyler Walsh and Joshua Barron.

...simon vanyai... .....matsuriki  
'Festival spirit'. Traditional heart meets contemporary  
dynamism. Synchronisation, rhythm and motion are only  
achieved through dedicated training and teamwork of the  
performers. Premiere performance.

...simon vanyai... ...katsugi matsuri daiko  
Festivals feature taiko of all shapes and sizes, including  
light, roped drums carried over the shoulders, allowing  
performers to move, dance and jump around to the  
excitement of the crowd.  
Featuring Katsugi Daiko solo by Art Lee.

...simon vanyai... ...j angaru  
Jangaru was born from a rhythm, and reflects the tribal  
spirit of an exotic jungle. The sections evoke wildlife  
interacting within this dream. Lions, elephants, zebras and  
snakes become the inspiration for movements and beats.

...traditional ... ...yatai bayashi  
This traditional piece was originally performed inside  
cramped wooden festival floats without room to stand.  
Now commonly performed on stages around the world, the  
performers play the cyclic rhythms at a blistering pace, a  
great test of their endurance.