

TAIKO DRUM PERFORMERS

Heidi Auman, Joshua Barron, Raelene Callaway, Liam Callaway,
Reilly Callaway, Belinda Gaudins, Eric Gaudins, Sam Gaudins,
Maria Grist, Jacqui Hansson, Amanda Jones, Bron Kelly,
Jacinta Leseck, Leah Lowenstein, Millie MacLeod,
Shelley MacLeod, Jake McKenzie, Yyan Ng, Moira Nolan,
Zuzi Palmer, Sophie Prosser, Matthew Stanny, Janan Sykes,
Simon Vanyai, Tyler Walsh, Lara Wasilewski

SMC RETSU TAIKO PERFORMERS

Melanie Butler, Maddison Higgs,
Gemma Jackson, Millie Macleod, Miranda Plane,
Frankie Williams, Abbie Willis
SMC Teachers: Di Irons, Shelley Macleod.

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Simon Vanyai

STAGE

Pip Hunn (stage manager) and team

UNIFORMS

Keryn Fountain, Heidi Auman

FRONT OF HOUSE

Anne Sykes and team

GRAPHICS

Simon Vanyai, Maria Grist

TUUTS EXECUTIVE

Joshua Barron, Rachel Dennis,
Eric Gaudins, Leah Lowenstein, Theo Wadsley

Thanks to Matthew Andrewartha and The Playhouse Theatre for
their much-appreciated support for this concert.

TASMANIA UNIVERSITY UNION TAIKO SOCIETY

PRESENTS

TAIKO DRUM



WITH

BRIAN TAIRAKU RITCHIE

(SHAKUHACHI)

JIN YOHANA

(SANSIN)

JAPANESE DANCE CLUB

WITH TAKAME SABINE AND FUMIKO PLAISTER

SMC RETSU TAIKO

WELCOME . . .

The Tasmania University Union Taiko Society are very excited to be presenting this concert to you.

We also have the pleasure of working with Brian Tairaku Ritchie, an accomplished Shakuhachi performer, Jin Yohana, on the Sanshin, and the Japanese Dance Club from the University of Tasmania.

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



<http://www.myspace.com/tairakubrianritchie>

THANKS . . .

MAJOR CONCERT SPONSORS

We would like to thank the Tasmania University Union for their ongoing support for our society.

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

We also thank Michael Cooper & Associates, Architects (www.mcaarchitects.com.au) for their support.

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

ELUSIVE CAPTURE

PHOTOGRAPHY



KELLY VANYAI 0434 935 882
ELUSIVECAPTURE@YAHOO.COM

BRIAN TAIRAKU RITCHIE

<http://www.myspace.com/tairakubrianritchie>

Founder of Violent Femmes Rock Band, 25 years on the road and in the studio all over the world. Concerts in over 35 different countries. 10 studio albums and numerous live and greatest hits packages. 7 years of studying shakuhachi (Japanese Bamboo Flute) in NYC with James Nyoraku Schlefer, culminating in a Jun Shihan teaching license and the professional name "Tairaku". Has recorded 3 CD's of traditional and modern music for the shakuhachi. Leader of the "Shakuhachi Club" band with branches in NYC, Milwaukee, San Francisco, Tasmania and Reykjavik. Other interests include producing other musicians, playing as sideman or arranger on recordings and touring with various ad hoc groups. Besides Violent Femmes, sometimes member of Zen Circus, Green Mist, G.O.I.N., Paddy on the Railway.

JIN YOHANA

Born and raised in Okinawa, an island located south of Japan, Jin picked up the Sanshin when he was 17 and has been teaching himself for the past 6 years. He now travels the world busking to share the sounds of Okinawa with everyone he meets. Okinawa was once an independent nation that developed its own history and culture, as well as food, language, religion and music.

The Sanshin is a three-stringed instrument like a banjo, which has become the definitive sound of Okinawa. It was introduced from China several centuries ago and was adopted by the Okinawans, who gradually modified it into a smaller instrument with a distinctive snakeskin covered soundbox and a long ebony neck. It is traditionally played with small sticks made from water buffalo horn. Jin wants the world to hear the music of Okinawa.

Australia-Japan Society Tasmania
<http://austjapanfed.org.au>
and click on State Societies
infotas@austjapanfed.org.au



Tasmania University Union
www.tuu.com.au

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TAIKO DRUM ELITE ...

SIMON VANYAI

Simon Vanyai first discovered Taiko while living in Japan, and has brought his passion for rhythm and movement back to Tasmania, where it has blossomed into a thriving Taiko culture.

Simon has been instrumental in the formation of 3 Taiko groups across the island, and as Artistic Director of Taiko Drum, has been tireless in his efforts towards developing local talent, creating exciting performance opportunities, supporting touring Taiko acts, and spreading his passion for Taiko amongst the people of Tasmania through public performances, adult workshops and schools demonstrations.

JOSHUA BARRON

Josh joined Taiko Drum in early 2004 and became an instructor in 2005. He now writes and teaches his own Taiko pieces and is learning the Yokobue and Shakuhachi. Josh believes that wadaiko is an amazing way to share our passion and energy with one another. It transcends all things that make us different, leaving just brothers and sisters of the drum.

MARIA GRIST

Maria has been playing and assisting with teaching taiko for over six years. She is the oldest member of the group, and has just composed her first taiko piece, Akikaze (autumn wind), which has its premiere performance tonight. Maria is a grandmother with five grandchildren, ranging in ages from four to sixteen.

TAIKO DRUM ELITE ...

LARA WASILEWSKI

Lara has been studying Wadaiko and other percussion cultures from across the globe, locally and abroad for over 10 years. For Lara, percussion is “a universal language, an energy that resonates within our core and connects all”.

She loves teaching keen members of her community how to ‘get in the groove’ and experience the holistic benefits of percussion.

TYLER WALSH

Tyler Walsh came to wadaiko from a classical music background in clarinet over five years ago. Since then he has developed a deep attachment and appreciation for the art and the opportunities it represents for self-expression. Previously an instructor and lead performer of Taiko Drum, Tyler returns home for this concert after a stint of advanced study in Sydney under Australian taiko greats Ian Cleworth and TaikOz.

NG YUAN

Yuan has learned Taiko under the guidance of Simon Vanyai, and has led the northern Taiko group in Launceston for the last four years. As a multi-instrumentalist musician, he pursues both traditional and modern expressions through Taiko. Yuan is one of the group's principal players of the “Shinobue”, the Japanese transverse bamboo flute. He is also undertaking vigorous study of the Shakuhachi under the guidance of Brian “Tairaku” Ritchie.



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nagado drums possible.

TAIKO DRUM MERCHANDISE

T-SHIRTS available - Your souvenir of
this concert! Please see Front Of House staff to
place your order. \$30 per t-shirt.



DVDS are also available for \$25.00.



**Tasmanian
Community Fund**

Making a difference

In 2006 the Tasmania University Union
Taiko Society received a \$10,000 grant
from the Tasmanian Community Fund
to assist with the cost of making more
drums, and drum bags for the large
nagados. These additional resources
greatly assisted the group's school visit
program, which is fostering a growing
interest in taiko amongst school children.

JAPANESE DANCE CLUB

Japanese students and the JATs (Japanese Assistant Teachers) have
been performing Japanese dances at various occasions such as the UTAS
Multicultural/International Nights, the Christmas Pageant, the Australia-Japan
Society's annual dinner, the Tulip Festival etc. over the last ten years. However
the UTAS Japanese Dance Club was officially created this year.

FUMIKO PLAISTER

Fumiko has worked tirelessly over the past 40 years fostering mutual
understanding and cultural appreciation between Tasmania and Japan. She
was involved from the beginning of Hobart's Sister City relationship with Yaizu
City, when she was a young classically trained contemporary dancer. Since
moving to Tasmania, she has had taught dance and movement, as well as many
other Japanese arts, and has been a great supporter of Taiko in Tasmania. She
has been involved with Japanese Dancing at the university since 2002, with her
students performing at Christmas Pageants and International Student events.

TAKAME UEKI

Taka is a senior lecturer and the coordinator of the Japanese course at the
University of Tasmania. Her passion for Japanese dancing started at the age of
five, when she won first prize at a dance competition sponsored by a newspaper
company. Since she came to Tasmania she has performed Japanese dances at
many occasions under Fumiko's instruction and direction. In recent years Taka
focuses on teaching dancing, not performing herself.

ST MARY'S RETSU TAIKO

The St. Mary's College taiko group was formed
in 2008 with the support of Taiko Drum.
Retsu Taiko means 'let's taiko' while 'retsu' alone
means 'intensity'. The group's public performances
include last year's 'Taiko Drum in Concert' at the
playhouse, and the Hobart City Council's Harmony
Day celebrations in April. Students are taught by Millie
Macleod (SMC student and Taiko Drum member) and
Liam Callaway (Taiko Drum member).



ST. MARY'S COLLEGE
HOBART

TAIKO DRUM

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

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

TASMANIAN 'Drum', pronounced Dora–Mu in Japanese, was 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.

CHALLENGE In Taiko Drum, we encourage taiko enthusiasts 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.

JOIN New members are welcome to join Taiko Drum at any time of the year. We run regular training sessions that enable players to advance at their own pace. Many members enjoy benefits the fun exercise, building fitness and strength. You will also make new friends, share the excitement of performance, and feel the harmony of teamwork. No previous musical or drumming experience necessary. See page 11 for training information.

GET INTO TAIKO:

BASIC TAIKO COURSE

4 week training course
starting Sep 23 + 24 and mid-Nov
contact – see below
1-day intensive training
Adult Education – Oct 3rd
contact – 6233 7243

**Venue: First grandstand (basement),
Hobart Showgrounds**

REGULAR TRAINING

Monday – performance improvement
Wednesday – learn repertoire, basics course
Thursday – basics course.

WEEKLY TRAINING

PCYC Juniors:
Contact Mark Brown ph 0427467146

WEEKLY TRAINING

See www.burnietaiko.com

HOBART

L'TON

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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TUUTS

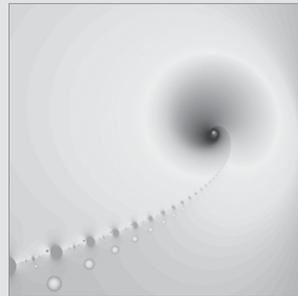
The Tasmania University Union Taiko Society (TUUTS) was formed in 2002 as a not-for-profit, University-based, social, cultural and physical activity. It is the first of its kind in Tasmania.

The founder of the group is Simon Vanyai, who studied taiko in Japan for two years under taiko Master 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 TUUTS was made possible through the generous support of the Australia Japan Society and Japan Club.

The main objectives of the TUUTS 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.

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.

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



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ACT 1

SAKURA...

...SIMON VANYAI

The sakura heralds the change in seasons from winter to spring. The delicate pink blossoms on ancient and majestic trees are revered and celebrated by the village folk, until the petals fall like snow and greenery prevails. ***World Premiere***

HONKYOKU...

...TRAD.

A meditation piece played on the shakuhachi (Japanese bamboo flute) by Brian Tairaku Ritchie.

HOUNOU...

...TYLER WALSH

Hounou means dedication, presentation or offering. Played on the grand odaiko.

KOJO NO TSUKI and SORAN BUSHI ...TRAD.

Performed by Brian "Tairaku" Ritchie and Jin Yohana.

ISHIKARI RYUUSEIKAI SOORAN... ...TRAD.

Ishikari Ryuuseikai Sooran is a traditional community dance from northern Japan. Performed by the Japanese Dance Club.

AKIKAZE...

...MARIA GRIST

A sunny autumn afternoon in a park. The wind rises, and stirs the tree branches. Leaves scurry around in eddies, and children run under the trees laughing while chasing and kicking through the piles of leaves on the ground.
World Premiere

KOKORO...

...NG YUAN

This piece is about finding our inner pulse and essence through the act of playing the sacred taiko. It features dengaku-style drumming in a duet between shakuhachi and shinobue.

NACHUU SOORAN... ...TRAD.

Nanchuu-Sooran is a traditional community dance from northern Japan. Performed by the Japanese Dance Club.

HEIKI O SAGASU... ...JOSHUA BARRON

In search of composure during a time of restlessness, the students of a dojo are taught that they must use all their energy before they can refocus and obtain serenity.
World Premiere

ACT 2

SIMON VANYAI...

.....SEIJYAKU NO WA

'Harmony of Silence'. This was Taiko Drum's debut performance at the University Open Day 2002. Performed for you by our keenest new members and our experienced performing members.

SIMON VANYAI...

...MATSURI

This festival piece is performed today by SMC Retsu Taiko and Taiko Drum members.

MILLIE MACLEOD...

...KOKORO GA KAYOU

meaning "to call forth a response from another's heart, and to learn from and understand each other", is performed by both the oldest and youngest female members of the group.

SIMON VANYAI...

...TAZI JIMA DAIKO

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'.

DAIHACHI OGUCHI... ...TONBANE/ISAME GOMA

Written by taiko Grand Master Daihachi Oguchi of Osuwa Daiko, who recently passed away. Performed with permission granted on our 2006 trip to Japan.

JOSHUA BARRON...

...ODAIKO

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.

TRAD....

...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.