

What's New?

Niihama City

No.176

April 2010

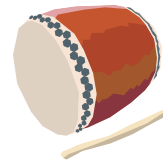
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Japanese musical instruments

James Wilson



I came to Japan from New York City in June of last year with a desire to learn about the country's culture and music. Over the past several months I have had the unique opportunity to not only learn about Japanese music, but to be an active participant in the performance and creation of musical works involving traditional Japanese instruments.

I attended the University of Northern Iowa and graduated from the School of Music in 2004. Our music history education was limited mostly to Western music, so I knew very little about the traditional music of Asia. In September 2009 I began studying Taiko drumming with my sensei, Mr. Onishi. He was kind enough to sponsor my visa, and I am extremely grateful for all the opportunities he has given me. Mr. Onishi has provided me with an incredible Japanese experience that I will never forget.

My first encounter with the Taiko was at the Konga Dance Festival in Niihama. I was moved by the intensity of the players and the unique sound the instrument produced. It sounded to me like a heartbeat. I can't recall seeing an instrument played in this manner before. The performance was not only stimulating aurally, but also visually. The performers appeared to be combining

drumming and dancing.

Playing the Taiko drum poses similar and different challenges than the other instruments I play: piano and saxophone. One major difference is the level of physical activity involved. It's a very demanding activity, and after rehearsal I'm usually exhausted. Similarities include the importance of technique, playing with passion and emotion, and learning complex rhythms.

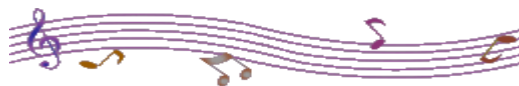
During my time in Japan I have learned about another instrument called the shinobue. The shinobue is traditional Japanese flute made of bamboo. Mr. Onishi introduced me to Kazunari Abe, a very talented shinobue player who toured with the Taiko group Kodo for 14 years. We have given numerous live performances together as the group Sora Ocean. Our repertoire includes original works composed by Kazunari and myself, and popular Japanese and Western songs.

In addition to the shinobue and the Taiko, I have learned a little about the shamisen. A friend of mine in Nara plays the shamisen in his band NolenNiu-de-Ossi. They combine traditional Japanese instruments with popular modern instruments. I will play live shows with them in Osaka and Kobe in April and May.

I will continue studying Taiko and performing throughout Japan and when I return to New York to continue building my career as a performing songwriter.

James Wilson is a musician living in Niihama. He is originally from rural Iowa and spent the past 5 years in Brooklyn, NY. His interests include cooking, art, traveling, concerts and outdoor activities.

You can find more information about his music at www.frightenedseller.net



April Events

- ✿ 10th Sat. 10:30-15:00 **Tea Ceremony**
at Niihama Art Museum 250 yen
- ✿ 11th Sun. 13:00-16:30 **Music, Japanese Drum, Dance etc.**
at Niihama Bunka-Center Free
- ✿ 17th Sat. 11:00-11:30 **Japanese “koto” Concert**
at Niihama Art Museum Free
- ✿ 17th Sat. 13:00-16:30 **Dance, Reciting poems etc.**
at Niihama Bunka Center Free
- ✿ 18th Sun. 13:00-16:00 **Japanese Folk Songs, Koto, Dance**
at Niihama Bunka-Center Free
- ✿ 18th Sun. 10:0-15:00 **Cherry Blossom Festival**
BBQ,oden,etc at Ikatazu-Sanso
- ✿ 24th Sat. 13:00-16:00 **Music, Dance, Japanese Folk Songs**
at Niihama Bunka-Center Free
- ✿ 25th Sun.14:00-16:00 **Niihama Blass Band Concert**
at Niihama Bunka-Center Free
- ✿ 25th Sun.8:00-13:00 **Farm-Fresh Market and Attractions**
at Noboli-michi shopping Arcade

people will have fun and learn a lot through this renovation."



Internal-Medicine Clinic of the Niihama Medical Association/Pediatric Emergency Center



A Late-Night Pediatric Treatment center will be launched from midnight April 1st and will operate from 23:00 to 6:00.

It will provide doctor consultations for sudden illnesses or abrupt changes in the condition of Infants.

(Published by Niihama-shi Health Center)

Opening Hours:

Mon. to Sat.	20:00-23:00	Internal Medicine, and Pediatrics
	23:00-6:00	Pediatrics
Holidays(Sundays, NationalHolidays, Dec.31, Jan-1,2,3)	9:00-1700	Internal Medicine, and Pediatrics

Adress:Shonai-cho 4-7-17(in the Health Center Building)

Tel:32-5658

Website: <http://www.niihama-med.or.jp/>

Question & Answer

Re. The Earth

Q: How many days does it Take you to run around the earth, if at all possible, without rest?

A: 82 days. The equatorial circumference of the earth is 40,000 kilometers. The world record for 42.195 km marathon race stands at 2 hours 4 minutes or so. So it will take you 82 days running at this space. If you walk, it will take more than a year.

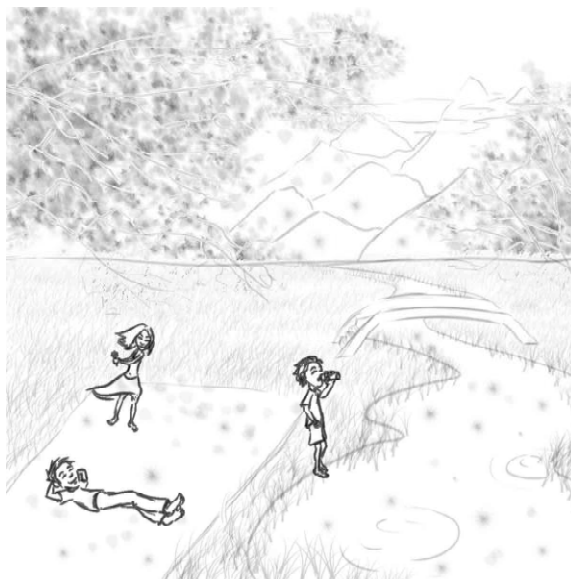
MOVIE

TOHO CINEMAS Niihama (AEON Shopping Center)

February 26	~ PERCY JACKSON & THE OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTING THIEF	Dubbed
March 5	~ THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG	Dubbed
March 12	~ SHERLOCK HOMES	English
March 12	~ DID YOU HEAR ABOUT THE MORGANS?	English
March 19	~ CIRQUE DU FREAK: THE VAMPIRE'S ASSISTANT	Dubbed
March 19	~ NINE	English
March 20	~ G-FORCE	Dubbed
April 9	~ SHUTTER ISLAND	English/Dubbed
April 17	~ ALICE IN WONDERLAND	English/Dubbed
April 23	~ THE WOLFMAN	English
April 23	~ CLASH OF THE TITANS	English
April 24	~ THOMAS & FRIENDS	Dubbed

Internet: <http://niihama-aeonmall.com>

Tape (24 hrs): 0897-35-3322 (in Japanese)



<Contributed by Adam Schartup>

SGG would welcome any suggestions, questions or ideas for monthly articles. email: yukiko-m@shikoku.ne.jp

kasi4386@plum.ocn.ne.jp

sheep@abeam.ocn.ne.jp

*The editors for this month are Kazuko Kaida & Yukiko Miki

ONE POINT JAPANESE

- A : もう花見に行きましたか。
Mō hanami ni ikimashita ka.
(Did you go to see the cherry blossoms already?)
- B : ええ。Ee. (Yes.)
会社のひとと一回、友だちと二回行きました。
Kaisha no hito to ikkai, tomodachi to nikai ikimashita.
(I went for a Hanami once with the people in my company and twice with my friends.)
- A : えーっ！三回も行ったんですか。Ee! Sankai mo ittan desu ka?
(Wow! You went three times?!)
- B : ええ。Ee. (Right.)
でも、桜を見るというより、宴会を楽しむという感じでした。
Demo, sakura o miru to yū yori, enkai o tanoshimu to yū kanji deshita.
(But it was like rather than enjoying the cherry blossoms, we enjoyed the Enkai – the party.)
- A : そうですね。Sodesu ka. (Oh, okay.)
朝早く行くと、ゆっくり桜を楽しむことができますよ。
Asa hayaku iku to, yukkuri sakura o tanoshimu koto ga dekimasu yo.
(If you go early in the morning, you can enjoy the cherry blossoms at your leisure.)
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- A : 5月の連休、何か予定がありますか。
Gogatsu no renkyū, nanika yotē ga arimasu ka.
(During the May holidays, do you have any plans?)
- B : ええ。Ee. (Yes.) 前半は、家族旅行をする予定です。
Zenhan wa, kazoku ryokō o suru yotē desu.
(For the first half, I'm planning to travel with my family.)
- A : どこへ行くか、もう決まったんですか。
Doko e iku ka, mō kimattan desu ka.
(Have you decided where to go yet?)
- B : いいえ、今相談しているところです。
Iie, ima sōdan shiteiru tokoro desu. (No, we are discussing it now.)
- A : 後半は？Kohan wa? (What will you do during the latter half?)
- B : どこも行かないで、家でのんびりしようと思っています。
Dokomo ikanaide, uchi de nonbiri shiyō to omotte imasu.
(I'm thinking I'll take it easy at home without going anywhere.)
見たいDVDがたくさんあるんです。
Mitai DVD ga takusan arun desu.
(I have a lot of DVDs that I want to see.)
- A : そういう過ごし方もいいですね。Sō yū sugoshikata mo i desu ne.
(That way to spend the holidays is good too!)

< by Niihama Nihongo no Kai >

NNK also provides Japanese lessons for foreigners living in Niihama.

Feel free to contact us at ~Tel : 080-3920-0529 (Takako Hattori).

e-mail : pxyfy438@ybb.ne.jp