



Taste of Japan 絆

絆 Kizuna

Unbreakable bond

Celebrating 60th Anniversary

The New Zealand Japan Society of Auckland Inc. (NZJS) was established in 1960 by the Prime Minister of New Zealand and His Excellency the Ambassador of Japan with the aim of building relational bridges between our two countries.

NZJS has been instrumental in promoting goodwill and understanding between our two countries for 60 years. Activities such as visits to Japan, hosting visitors from Japan, Japanese language studies, educational, cultural and sporting events and exchanges plus hosting of cultural events such as 'Taste of Japan' have formed the backbone of the Society.

The 60th anniversary-Taste of Japan Kizuna (which means 'unbreakable bonds') will be held in October 2020 and will be co-hosted by the Consulate General of Japan.





Programmes for the Taste of Japan *Kizuna*

Workshop/Demonstration by

***Mizuhiki** Artist *Ms Kana Inami* from Kanazawa
Kana is passionate about Mizuhiki and she is the director of Namika. Her aim is to use Mizuhiki for Cultural exchange. Introduce Mizuhiki art with locals as well as people from overseas. She has been hosting people from overseas for 10 years.



Mizuhiki plays an important role in Japanese culture as a symbol of affection, warmth, and togetherness. Made from washi, or rice paper. Mizuhiki is a colourful twine that is tied in knots to decorate gifts. Each knot has a meaning and is used for a specific event (weddings, funerals, births, visiting someone in hospital, etc.). Mizuhiki knots are closely associated with the Japanese word *musubo* (meaning “connection” or “tying”) because tying a Mizuhiki knot connects people and ties them together.



***Chirimenzaiku (Tsumami zaiku)** by *Ms Kazue Yamada*

For many years, Kazue has been sharing her love for Japanese craft with foreigners in Yokohama as well as with local Japanese people of all ages. She is an experienced facilitator and a teacher. By sharing her passion for craft with people around her, she not only creates a fun atmosphere but an experience in learning Japanese craft work.



Tsumami-zaiku is a traditional Japanese craft using small squared pieces of cloth that are pinched and folded with tweezers, thus avoiding the use of needles or thread. This method originated about 200 years ago during the Edo period and was used by Geisha and Maiko as hair accessories and Obi-dome (for kimono).



Concert at ASB Theatre by Daidabo 大太坊

Daidabo is Japan's most awarded taiko drumming group, having performed 89 full-length concerts over more than 30 years.

Members of Daidabo are heavily involved in developing the performing arts and culture of their country. They currently provide coaching and guidance to 112 groups around the country.



Every three years, they invite these groups to perform in a concert called Dodonsai, where up to 500 players drum together on stage.

Daidabo are appointed to direct the yearly Matsumoto Taiko Festival, where other top professional and amateur groups perform within the walls of the national treasure Matsumoto Castle.

They have also directed 129 concerts of two hours or more for groups around Japan.



Daidabo's founder, Hishashi Kitahara, is an influential composer, director, author and mentor for performers throughout Japan. He has written three books on taiko, and appeared on TV. His songs, played by thousands, show his deep commitment to the past, present and future of Japanese culture. The outstanding passion of these artists comes together in Daidabo's performances, as an exciting experience that is easy for anyone to enjoy, yet contains rare and deep cultural integrity.

Awards**Daidabo**

Year	Event	Award
2017	Kurea-Kounosu 11th East Japan competition	First place
2014	Kurea-Kounosu 8th East Japan competition	First place
2014	Sonic city 6th All Japan competition	First place
2011	Toyota 1st West Japan competition	First place

Daida (Daidabo's previous name)

2007	14th All Japan Taiko competition	First place
2007	6th Tokyo International Taiko competition	First place

Mugenkai (Daida's previous name)

1998	5th All Japan Taiko competition	First place
1997	13th Mt Fuji Taiko festival	Honorary organization award
1993	All Japan Taiko festival	Iwate Governor award