



July 2012



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Japanese culture, interviews, food and beauty guide, classifieds and much more!

15th **EVENT CALENDAR** [2012 JULY]

JCV Wadaiko Concert

DATE 1 July 1pm
VENUE St Philip Anglican Church, 148 Hoddle St, Abbotsford
ADMISSION \$5 (Free for JCV members)
WEBSITE www.jcv-au.org

The popular JCV Japanese Traditional Music Concert is coming back! This year's performance features some of the most inspiring Japanese groups and artists based in Melbourne. The list includes Wadaiko Rindo, a finalist of Australian's Got Talent Noriko Tadano & Shamizu, Fufukuro and so on. It is a wonderful opportunity to feel in-tune with Japanese rhythms.



© 2012 Wadaiko Rindo

Email toshi@wadaikorindo.com for booking

Kids Japan Festival

DATE 8 July 10am-3pm
VENUE Vermont South Community House, Karobran Dr, Vermont South
ADMISSION Exhibition area Free, Kids fun area \$3
WEBSITE www.japan.org.au



As a way of saying "thank you" to those who helped Japan in its recovery from the 2011 March earthquake, 80 paintings by children from the affected areas will be showcased. Apart from this exhibition, there will also be traditional Japanese games, a raffle and fresh vegetables for sale. All the revenues from this event will be donated.

Lost & Found: Family Photos Swept Away by the 3.11 East Japan Tsunami

DATE Until 15 July
VENUE Centre for Contemporary Photography, 404 George St, Fitzroy
ADMISSION Free
WEBSITE www.ccp.org.au

This is an exhibition of collected photographs recovered from the 3/11 East Japan earthquake. Although this heart-breaking disaster is no longer in the media, the people living in the affected areas are still in need. Funds raised by this exhibition will go directly to the people in Yamamoto-cho.



Sachiko Kubota Photo Exhibition

DATE 5 July - 1 August
VENUE Japan Information & Cultural Centre, Consulate-General of Japan, Level 8, 570 Bourke St, Melbourne
ADMISSION Free
WEBSITE www.melbourne.au.emb-japan.go.jp

Sachiko undertook the Diploma of Visual Arts in RMIT University and is now working towards a Bachelor of Arts (Fine Art) degree in Photography. She is interested in photography and performance in works which aim to define the Japanese migrant identity in Australia.

Stars of the Tokyo Stage

DATE Until 25 August
VENUE RMIT Gallery, 344 Swanston St, Melbourne
ADMISSION Free
WEBSITE nga.gov.au/TokyoStage

An exclusive collection from the National Gallery of Australia is touring Australia, and has arrived in Melbourne. This collection of prints is showcasing images of life in the world of Kabuki, a traditional Japanese style of theatre. These images are created by Japanese artist Natori Shunsen (1886 - 1960).



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JIM INTERVIEW Jazz Pianist Hiromi Uehara "Incorporating all my emotions into the music"



The 15th year of the Melbourne International Jazz Festival (1 - 10 June) has swept the audiences off their feet! This year's festival comprised of many international artists such as Japanese pianist, Hiromi Uehara.

Playing the piano since she was 6, Hiromi was born in Hamamatsu, Shizuoka Prefecture. During her years of study at Boston's Berklee College of Music, she was selected to sign a contract with Telarc, a prestigious Jazz recording company. Debuting in 2003, with her album "Another Mind", Hiromi is now based in USA and performs internationally.

- What is so appealing about jazz?

What I like most about jazz is ability to

improvise. The result is like the combination of various music styles such as classical and rock. The fact that you will never know what to expect makes me deeply attracted to it.

- Has there been a time when you felt that jazz has been integrated into people's daily lives?

Probably at restaurants that offer live performances and also at places with the music turned on high. People visit certain restaurants because they want to listen to music while some people discover it as they dine.

- Was there anything that you found different

from the jazz in Japan compared to the ones in America?

I can't really compare since I haven't studied at a music college in Japan. Though, I believe the difference does not lie in the music alone as the contrasting culture plays a big part as well. Being able to embrace a different culture that doesn't go by the ethical values and reasoning that I'm used to was a very rewarding learning experience.

- Your performance has been appraised to be dynamic, astounding and of lightning speed. Does this fit with your own personality?

Well, I hope my personality is not considered to be astounding (laugh)! I guess, there are emotional aspects but the carefree aspects also flow into it.

- Where do you think you will be in 10 years' time?

I want to continue to play the piano for a long, long time. I believe that every step taken now will be accumulated and reward me in the future. I'd like to climb this mountain steadily.



How about joining in Hiromi's jazz conversation? Go to: www.japaninmelbourne.com.au and click "Interview"

Story : Kurilui Photos : Takako Kaneshige

YAMAHA
CFX - Premium Concert Grand Piano

The rising jazz pianist, Hiromi Uehara and her stage partner, YAMAHA's premium concert piano CFX, is now at the centre of attention of the world.

After 19 years of extensive research and repeated tests, piano experts YAMAHA, has created a completely new "CFX" in 2010, based on the old models. They proclaim CFX is the collection of the best components of their highest calibre concert pianos with a century's worth of history, the chef-d'oeuvre of all premium concert grand pianos.

Their aim is to make CFX the piano that is equipped with the power of expression and have the ability to handle and to deliver rich, dominant and complex sounds in a vast space. To achieve that, they have recreated the soundboard, which is known as the "heart of a piano". Only specially selected and crafted wood is used to create a high quality soundboard capable of producing a wide range of dynamics. Another prominent characteristic of CFX is in its design. The curves of the piano are so unique that they prevent boredom

even after a long performance, yet without distracting the concentration of the pianist. The structure of the pillars was re-examined again and its sturdiness has also been greatly enhanced.

Pianos are "living things" and consists of approximately 8000 parts in which each and every part of a grand piano is so closely related to one another that it seems that there are infinite possibilities within.

CFX has the magical power to embrace Hiromi's exuberant passion, emotions and playful mind. Her overflowing energy, dazzling technique and her true ability and skills are genuinely reflected through the magnificent flow of music. The solid partnership of the two is delivered to each and every audience, as proven by the fervent standing ovation during the Melbourne International Jazz Festival 2012.

UNVEILING JAPAN Sake
Tango Hanto, Kyoto: The Place of Nostalgic Beauty

When talking about Kyoto, we tend to only think of the inland area with profound history and culture. In fact, there is more to Kyoto than the beautiful temples and charming geisha!

Located in Kyoto's north-west is Tango Hanto - the peninsula jutting out into the Sea of Japan. A couple of hours drive from Kyoto, it's renowned for Amano-Hashidate,



which is also known as "The Bridge to Heaven", one of the three most celebrated scenic

sights in Japan. By the bridge, you will be mesmerised by the breath-taking scenery. Perhaps it will be Kotohiki Beach - home to the famous singing sand or the hundreds of houses that make up the fishing village off the bay in Ine, you can be sure to have a glimpse of the good ol' Japan.

After emerging yourself around nature and sceneries, don't forget to try the sake tours! You will be able to visit the local sake breweries and pamper yourself in a hot spring with small cups of sake. It's an experience not to be missed.



Visit Tango Hanto and immerse yourself in nostalgic Japan.

Story and Photos : Jun Hasegawa
Enquires: info@tryber.com.au

EXCLUSIVE to JIM!

NORIKO TADANO'S AUTOGRAPHED ALBUM!

"Lucky draw to win Noriko's autographed album"

For a chance to win the album autographed by the charming Tsugaru Shamisen-player from George & Noriko, the Australia's Got Talent 2012 finalist, please send an email to editors@gogomelbourne.com.au

To be eligible for this prize, you must include: your full name, mobile number and your opinion of JIM. Please remember to mark 'Noriko's CD Lucky Draw' in the subject line.

Entry closes on Tue 31 July 2012.

- Winners will be notified through email on 1 August and will have to collect their prize by visiting JIM office in the city.

Welcome in, all EPICURES!

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IZAKAYA HACHIBEH



of steamed rice and an egg to make *zosui* (Japanese risotto). Absorbing the rich flavours of French bisque combined with Japanese *dashi* (bonito and kelp stock), this dish makes a hearty meal on a cold night.

Heirloom Kaisen Takikomi Rice
Prized king crabs from Hokkaido, Tasmanian seafood and premium *koshihikari* rice are slow-cooked in a *la cocotte* (cast iron pot) with French bisque. Bursting with rich and aromatic seafood flavour, it is the humble rice brittle around the edges that sweeps everyone off their feet.

Wagyu Ribs Sukiyaki

And lastly, a generous portion of wagyu rib fillets is slow-cooked in sake and *dashi* for three hours before being served. As a result, the fillets become so flavoursome and



Heirloom Kaisen Takikomi Rice



Head chef Ryo Kitahara

With the winter chill upon us, there's no better time to enjoy comfort food at Heirloom. Located in the city, this modern izakaya is headed by Ryo Kitahara, Iron Chef French, Hiroyuki Sakai's star protégé. This winter, Ryo has handpicked the finest produce to reinvent three popular Japanese winter warmers with a different flair.

Kingfish Shabu-shabu

Limited only during winter, this kingfish shabu-shabu is sensational! After gently swishing the kingfish sashimi in the broth, make sure you finish it off Japanese-style by stirring in a bowl



tender you will feel them melting away in your mouth!
It's always delightful to have a drink alongside a meal. For these three dishes, we recommend a bottle



of full-bodied sake. A wide selection of sake is available, so be sure to enquire the sommelier.
If you are looking for a cosy space for your next gathering with family and friends, the Japanese styled function room would be perfect for entertaining!

Food made with love is sure to warm the heart on a winter's night. Hurry in for these *très bien* hotpots before they are sold out!

Story: Tiffany Ho Photos: Sammy



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- 03 9639 1296
- www.heirloom.com.au

Hangout Place

Aka Siro



Make yourself at home

With the interior mostly handcrafted by owner chef, Masayuki Hasuoka, the wooden interior, open kitchen and low ceiling of Aka Siro, imitates the authentic local joints in Japan. Located in Collingwood, this cosy Japanese eatery is perfect



for those who are too intimidated to eat lunch alone in a restaurant.

All nine teishoku meal sets are reasonably

priced and come with rice and miso soup. For an extra \$3, one can select a side from an array of dishes available. Amongst the customers, the made-to-order takoyaki balls and tonpeiyaki pancake served with salad and original dressing, have always been popular as a Sunday Special.



"I'd like my customers to feel as if they were at home as everyone can get close together and enjoy each other's company," says the friendly owner. Food made with dedication and served by welcoming staff in a comfortable environment explains why one can feel at home at Aka Siro.

Story: Tiffany Ho photos: Yoshimi Okita

AKA SIRO

AKA SIRO

- 106 Cambridge St, Collingwood
- Tue - Fri 11am-4pm, Sat & Sun 12pm-4pm

Japan **IN** Melbourne

For latest updates, please visit www.japaninmelbourne.com.au

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TOKYOBIKE! How about trying "Tokyo Slow" in Melbourne?

"If the one for riding in mountains is called Mountain Bike, then the one for riding in Tokyo should be **tokyobike**".

Did you know there is a bicycle shop called tokyobike in Smith Street, Collingwood?

Opened in September 2011, Melbourne tokyobike is the second store in Australia after Sydney. Along with the flagship store in Tokyo, they have outlets in Singapore, Berlin and London as well. As its name suggests, tokyobike started with the concept of creating bicycles suitable for

cycling in the heart of Japan.

Let the other bikes handle the speed. Tokyobike is for those who want to enjoy the city through slow cycling. Being light in weight, simple, practical and above all, colourful surely makes cycling more fun and enjoyable!

In fact, cycling in Melbourne is very common. Many people have their own preferences and like getting parts of their bikes modified to make them more personal and original. Tokyobike is strongly recommended for those kinds of people. There are a variety of parts to choose from in store.

One of the staff tells us that, "Cycling gives people freedom". Unlike the restrictions of public transport, cycling allows you to travel to destinations at your own pace. Adding on to this advantage, tokyobike makes bikes with more functions suitable for city cycling.

Ride through the city on tokyobike and you will be sure to fall in love with



Melbourne even more!
For further information on bicycle trends, colours, special promotions and discounts please visit their store, website and blog.

Story and Photos: Takako Kaneshige

tokyobike

- 5 Peel St, Collingwood
- Mon, Thu - Sun: 11am-5pm (Closed on Tue, Wed and public holidays)
- 03 9417 2845
- www.tokyobike.com.au

DOLLY'S MANGA

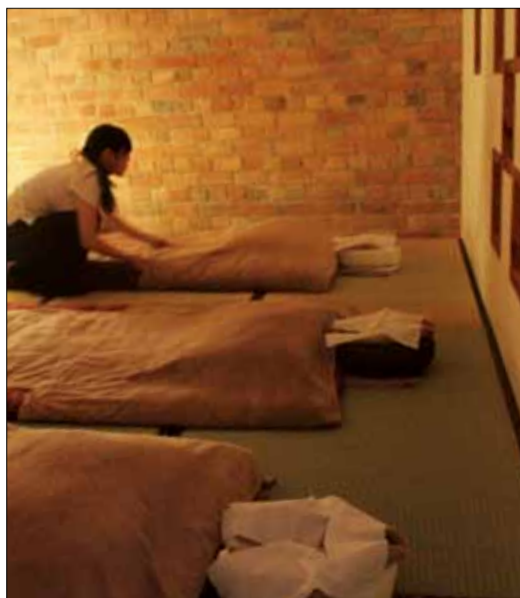
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