

YAMATO



THE DRUMMERS OF JAPAN



PASSION

2020





観たことのない世界 聴いたことのない音楽 五感を総動員せよ!

独創と革新で世界劇場に挑む「倭-YAMATO」

樹齢400年の大木で造った太鼓を筆頭に数十台の太鼓群を抱え、全身を躍動させ、全霊で叩き、波動を巻き起こす。血沸き肉躍る迫力のライブパフォーマンス。その鼓動に、人々は圧倒され、高揚し、シンクロする。伝統楽器「和太鼓」から弾き出される奇烈なる革新。あをによし・奈良。大和魂の発露であり、猛る冒険への雄叫びだ。

「倭」結成は、地元の神社の祭へ、オリジナル曲「日向」をひきつけて参加したことに端を発する。1993年のことだ。それから26年。これまでに世界54カ国に招聘され、4000公演以上のパフォーマンスを行い、700万人を動員。多彩なフォーメーションによる演奏は高い評価を得、評判が評判を呼び、英国メディアは「肉体の音楽」と称える。日本文化発祥の地・明日香村を拠点とし、1年のうち半年から10ヶ月を海外公演にかけ、倭スピリッツを炸裂させる。日本のあらゆるパフォーマンス・アーツ集団の中で、群を抜く海外公演数を誇る「倭-YAMATO」。

そして「独創的であり続ける」・・・それが「倭-YAMATO」のもうひとつの基盤だ。

だから、楽器以外は、すべて共同生活を営むメンバーによって創り出す。楽曲はもちろんのこと、演出、舞台や照明のデザイン、振り付け、演奏方法、衣裳にメイク、大道具や小道具・・・演奏で使用するバチに至るまで全て「オリジナル」だ。「倭-YAMATO」はこの「独創」を以て和太鼓を舞台芸術に昇華させる。太古から、人々を鼓舞し奮いたたせてきた和太鼓。その伝統への敬意を胸に秘め、「倭-YAMATO」の音を、日本に、アジアに、そして世界に響かせていく。



A World Never Seen Before A Music Never Heard Before A waken All Your Five Senses!

Yamato's Creativity and Innovation Conquer Theatres around the World

A group of dozens of players start their performance by hitting a Japanese taiko drum made from a large 400 year-old tree. They move their whole bodies to strike the drum with everything in their souls, creating a powerful surge of energy. Their live performances are so full of intensity that they make people's bodies jump and their hearts race faster. Audiences are overwhelmed by the beat of the music, as their bodies are uplifted in sync with the powerful sounds. This group, from beautiful Nara Prefecture in Japan, is able to exhibit great originality and innovation through this traditional Japanese musical instrument, the wadaiko (Japanese drum). This is the epitome of the Japanese spirit, a roaring sound that will make you experience new exciting adventures.

Yamato was formed in 1993, debuting at a Shinto shrine festival in the group's hometown with their original song 'Hyu-ga (The sunrise)'. Since then, 26 years have passed. So far they have been invited to 54 countries around the world, playing in more than 4,000 performances, and attracting 7 million viewers. Their performances, featuring various stage formations, have received raving reviews; their fame keeps spreading more and more, and the British media has even called their sound "The music of the body." Yamato is based in a village called Asuka, known as the birthplace of Japanese culture, appearing in international performances from 6 to 10 months a year with an explosion of Yamato (ancient Japanese) spirit. They are proud to be the group with the largest number of international performances among all Japanese performing art groups.

"We want to be Creative" This is the motto of Yamato. This is why, aside from the musical instruments, the members of the group live together in a community to create everything by themselves. This includes the musical compositions, theatre productions, theatre settings, lighting design, choreography, performance techniques, costumes, makeup, stage settings and props... even the bachi (sticks) used in the performances are all their own original work. This is at the core of Yamato's performances around the world. Yamato uses this creativity to convert wadaiko into a performing art that can reverberate in Japan, Asia, and the rest of the world.

Wadaiko has inspired many people since ancient times.

Yamato holds their respect for this tradition in their hearts as they continue to create and innovate within their art.



Pure energy meets spiritual high.

★★★★★-The Scotsman

後-YAMATO 1993-2019

4016 Performances



1993: YAMATO was founded

SPIRIT TOUR 943 shows

1994: China Tour (4 shows), Shows in Japan

1995: Shows in Japan

1996: Shows in South Korea, Indonesia and Japan

1997: Brazil Tour (12 shows), Shows in Japan

1998: Brazil Tour (12 shows), UK Tour (23 shows), Shows in Sweden, Israel and Japan

1999: Europe and Israel Tour (5 countries, 75 shows), Brazil Tour (15 shows). Shows in Japan

2000: UK Tour (27 shows), Indonesia Tour (2 shows), Shows in Japan

2001: Singapore Tour (4 shows), Europe Tour (4 countries, 75 shows), USA Tour (19 shows), Shows in Japan

2002: South Asia Tour (3 countries, 10 shows), Europe Tour (3 countries, 18 shows), Shows in Japan

WORLD TOUR 「魂」 "Tamashy" 363 shows

2003: Europe Tour (9 countries, 171 shows), USA & Canada Tour (37 shows), Shows in Japan

2004: Europe Tour (13 countries, 100 shows), Mexico Tour (11 shows), Hong Kong & Macau Tour (5 shows), Shows in Japan

WORLD TOUR 「神鳴」 "Kami-Nari" –Thunder 370 shows

2005: Europe Tour (10 countries, 136 shows), Show in South Korea, USA & Canada Tour (35 shows), Shows in Japan

2006: Philippines Tour (4 shows), Europe Tour (12 countries, 149 shows), Mexico Tour (13 shows), Shows in Japan

WORLD TOUR 「心音」 "SHIN-ON" –The Heartbeat 383 shows

2007: Europe Tour (19 countries, 146 shows), Show in South Korea, Mexico-USA & Canada Tour (58 shows), Shows in Japan

2008: Europe Tour (13 countries, 147 shows), Shows in Japan

WORLD TOUR 「祭」 "Matsuri" –Fiesta! 288 shows

2009: Europe Tour (8 countries, 94 shows), USA & Canada Tour (41 shows), Shows in Japan

2010: Mexico Tour (33 shows), Australia Tour (3 shows), Europe Tour (14 countries, 60 shows), Southeast Asia Tour (2 countries, 5 shows), Shows in Japan

WORLD TOUR 「我武者羅」 "Gamushara" –The Beat of Courage 303 shows

2011: Europe Tour (7 countries, 103 shows), USA & Canada Tour (37 shows), Shows in Japan

2012: Europe Tour (11 countries, 61 shows), Israel Tour (3 countries), Japan Tour (10 shows), Shows in Japan

WORLD TOUR 「路上」 "Rojyoh" –The beat on the Road 429 shows

2013: Taiwan Tour (8 shows), 20th Anniversary shows in Nara (5 shows), Malaysia Tour (4 shows),

Europe Tour (8 countries, 76 shows), 20th Anniversary Japan Tour (21 Prefectures, 26 shows), Mexico and USA Tour (31 shows), Germany Tour (9 shows), Shows in Japan

2014: Europe Tour (9 countries, 74 shows), Corporate show in Kazakhstan, Brazil Tour (4 shows),

20th Anniversary Japan tour (47 Prefectures, 53 shows), Shows in Japan

WORLD TOUR 「爆音綺譚」 "Bakuon" –The Legend of the Heartbeat 328 shows

2015: Show in Kazakhstan, Europe tour (5 countries, 87 shows), Special performance in Russia, China tour (5 shows), Shows in Japan

2016: USA & Canada tour (40 shows), Japan tour (11 shows), Shows in Japan, Eastern Europe & Israel tour

WORLD TOUR 「回帰点」 "Kaiki-ten" –Turning point 11 shows

2016: Germany tour (11 shows)

WORLD TOUR 「挑戦者」 "Chousensha" –The Challengers 362 shows

2017: London (14 shows), UK tour (22 shows), Netherlands and Belgium tour (27 shows), Pafos,

European Capital of Culture in 2017, Germany tour in Summer (14 shows), Australia tour (16 shows), Germany tour in Winter (15 shows), Shows in Japan


2018: Germany tour (Winter 7 shows), USA tour (47 shows), Japan tour (Fukui, Hiroshima, Kagawa, Osaka, Shiga 6 shows),

Germany tour (Summer 38 shows), Japan - Sweden 150th Year! (2 Shows), Eastern Europe tour (18 shows), Shows in Japan

WORLD TOUR 「情熱」 "Jhonetsu" -Passion 236 shows

2019: Swiss Tour (29 shows), Italy (1 show), UK Tour (17 shows), London (22 shows), Netherlands Tour (33 shows),

Spain Tour (3 shows), Australia Tour (31 shows), Japan Tour (17 shows), Shows in Japan



Countries and Regions
that YAMATO performed
from 1993 to 2019

01. Austria オーストリア
02. Australia オーストラリア
03. Bangladesh バングラデシュ
04. Belarus ベラルーシ
05. Belgium ベルギー
06. Brazil ブラジル
07. Bulgaria ブルガリア
08. Canada カナダ
09. Canary Islands カナリア諸島
10. China 中国
11. Croatia クロアチア
12. Cyprus キプロス
13. Czech Republic チェコ
14. Denmark デンマーク
15. Estonia エストニア
16. France フランス
17. Germany ドイツ
18. Greece ギリシャ
19. Hong Kong 香港
20. Hungary ハンガリー
21. India インド
22. Indonesia インドネシア
23. Israel イスラエル
24. Italy イタリア
25. Kazakhstan カザフスタン
26. Latvia ラトビア
27. Lithuania リトアニア
28. Luxemburg ルクセンブルグ
29. Macau マカオ
30. Malaysia マレーシア
31. Mexico メキシコ
32. Netherlands オランダ
33. Norway ノルウェー
34. Philippines フィリピン
35. Poland ポーランド
36. Portugal ポルトガル
37. Qatar カタール
38. Romania ルーマニア
39. Russia ロシア
40. Serbia セルビア
41. Singapore シンガポール
42. Slovakia スロバキア
43. Slovenia スロベニア
44. South Korea 韓国
45. Spain スペイン
46. Sri Lanka スリランカ
47. Sweden スウェーデン
48. Switzerland スイス
49. Taiwan 台湾
50. Turkey トルコ
51. Ukraine ウクライナ
52. UAE アラブ首長国連邦
53. United Kingdom イギリス
54. USA アメリカ合衆国

26 Years
54 Countries
7,000,000 Audiences





Artistic Director

Masa Ogawa

和太鼓という楽器は日本人にとってなじみ深いものです。有史以来、様々な場面で人々を鼓舞してきた響きは、現代でも変わる事なく日本に響いています。神事や祭で鳴り響くその音に日本を感じ、癒される人も多いのではないのでしょうか。そして、その響きを音楽へ、また舞台芸術へと導く挑戦も続けられています。和太鼓の響きに魅せられた多くの太鼓演奏家や太鼓団体が繰り返し創作への努力の結果、今や世界中に和太鼓を愛する人々が誕生するまでになっています。世界の中で、日本という国のアイデンティティを表すに相応しい楽器「和太鼓」。常に和太鼓の価値を見つめ、伝統を守りつつ新しい可能性を見いだしてゆく。我々も、その素晴らしさを更に世界中に響かせることを目標にしていきたいと思っています。

Taiko is a musical instrument deeply familiar to every Japanese. Since the dawn of history, Taiko's rich reverberations have filled people with inspiration and encouragement in a wide range of settings. Its unmistakable sound is still heard throughout Japan today.

To many Japanese people, the sonorous beat of Taiko is soothing, for it is the sound of Japan itself, resounding at Shinto rituals and festivals in every part of the nation.

A number of artists have incorporated Taiko's sound into musical compositions and performing arts.

Thanks to the efforts of a number of accomplished Taiko individual performers and troupes, captivated by the distinctive boom of this enormous drum, Taiko is winning new fans around the world. This musical instrument eminently represents the identity of the Japanese nation.

We the members of Yamato believe in the unique value of Taiko.

We are committed to preserving its traditions and exploring new possibilities for this majestic instrument. Our goal is to create ever more opportunities for the boom of Taiko to resound worldwide.

小川正晃

Masa Ogawa

「倭」代表 Artistic director, composer and the founder.

1967年に生まれ、日本人の心の故郷といわれる「大和の国・奈良」に育つ。
1991年京都精華大学美術学部を卒業。ガラス工芸家を志して活動をする中で和太鼓と出会った。
その後、いくつかの和太鼓演奏グループと仕事をし、1993年に和太鼓「倭」を創設。
「倭」はこれまでに世界54カ国、3800回の公演を行うグループに成長している。
結成当初より「倭」で演奏される全ての曲の作曲、振付、舞台美術等を担当。
伝統的な楽器と新しい楽曲、視覚的にも美しくパワフルなパフォーマンスとして完成させるべく、
舞台美術、総合演出も手がけ、これまで日本の伝統音楽として受け止められてきた和太鼓音楽に新たな
方向性を見出した「倭」の舞台は、世界各国で高い評価を得ている。
自身も中心メンバーとして舞台に立ってきたが、現在は演奏以外にも他のグループへの曲の提供、
子供から大人までを対照とした演奏指導を多数行っている。
また近年では、倭の拠点である明日香村、奈良県と協力した公演活動も多岐にわたり、地域文化の活性化に
貢献している。

Masa Ogawa was born in 1967 and raised in Nara prefecture.

He came across Japanese drum when he was trying to become a glass-artist, after graduating from Art Department of Kyoto Seika University in 1991. Since then, he worked with several Japanese drum performance groups, and he established Japanese Drum Yamato in 1993.

Yamato has progressed as a group that gives 3,800 performances in 54 countries.

He composes, choreographs, and works on theatrical designs of all the music that are performed by Yamato.

He took charge of theatrical design as well as overall staging, in order to complete the powerful and visually beautiful performance that combined traditional instrument with new music, which found a new direction for Japanese drum music that had been considered only as Japanese traditional music.

As a result, Yamato's stage has gained a high reputation from around the world.

He has performed as a core member since the establishment.

Currently, he provides music to other groups and instructs how to play Japanese drum aimed at all age levels.

In recent years, he is producing Yamato Show in cooperation with Asuka-mura and Nara prefecture which is Yamato's home base. He is contributing to the revitalization of the local culture.

小川正晃







明日香の町並み

明日香村岡地区は、江戸時代に作られた家並みが今も残る地区です。およそ1300年前に建立され、西国三十三ヶ所観音堂場の第七番札所・日本最初やくよげ霊場としても知られている岡寺の宿場町・門前町として大変な賑わいをみせた往時の面影を感じられる町並みです。

ASUKA

In the Asuka region, there are a lot of viewpoints by a historical climate and natural environment's being preserved by enacting politics, the center of culture, and the Asuka law it when the country of Japan comes to strengthen the basis for the first time as a nation.



稲淵の棚田

(いなぶちのたなだ)

中世(平安～室町時代)に開墾され、日本の棚田百選にも選ばれた稲淵の棚田は、300枚あまりの水田と畑により形作られ、明日香村の美しい歴史的景観の一部となっており、農村の原風景を強く残しています。(平成23年重要文化的景観指定) 秋に棚田の畔や土手に咲く、彼岸花の県下有数の自生地でもあります。

INABUCHI TANADA

ASUKA's four seasons are best represented as one looks down over the landscape of the TANADA (shelf rice paddies) fields.



亀石(かめいし)

花崗岩の巨大な自然石に、亀か似た彫刻がほどこされています。

亀石は、以前は東向き、現在は南西を向っていますが、西の方を向いたとき、大和円は泥の海と化かす、という伝説があります。

KAMEISHI "Tortoise Stone"

This giant natural granite stone has been sculpted in the form of a smiling tortoise. Legend says that; before the tortoise stone faced north, now it faces southwest, and if the tortoise should face west, YAMATO (Nara as the capital), will sink in the muddy ocean.

倭の活動拠点

Yamato live in Asuka, Japan.

明日香村



飛鳥大仏(あすかだいぶつ)

日本最古の大仏(銅像)で、蘇我馬子の創建による日本発の本格的寺院「飛鳥寺」に安置されています。

ASUKA DAIBUTSU

This is the oldest Great Buddha in Japan, and it is enshrined in the oldest real authentic Buddhist temple in Japan.



石舞台古墳

(いしぶたいこふん)

我が国最大級の石室を持つ方墳。築造には相当すぐれた巨石運搬技術が要求されたことを物語っています。蘇我馬子がこの付近に住んでいたという記録と、墓が巨大であったことから一般に馬子の墓とされています。

ISHIBUTAI TOMB

In Japan it is known as the largest stone chamber containing an exquisite underground circular tomb. Legend claims that in constructing ISHIBUTAI that superior megalith transport technology was employed. Records show that SOGA no UMAKO resided in this neighborhood and it is believed to be UMAKO's own tomb based on the grandeur of the structure.



Mr. Morikawa who is cheerful Asuka village mayor and Masa Ogawa.

(明日香村の森川村長と小川)

Masa Ogawa who is founder / director of Yamato has been appointed Asuka international goodwill ambassador.

倭の代表・小川が明日香村国際親善大使を拝命しました。



明日香村-あすかむら

僕の活動拠点は奈良県明日香村です。ここから、世界中へ出かけてコンサート活動を行っています。明日香村（あすかむら）は、奈良県の中央部に位置しており、中央集権律令国家の誕生の地である事から飛鳥時代の宮殿や史跡が多く発掘されている事で知られています。また、日本文化発祥の地でもあり、「日本の心の故郷」とも紹介されています。



Asuka-mura (Base of Yamato)

This is the main theme of the activities of Yamato.
 Setting off from Asuka village in the country of Yamato,
 running through the world and returning home to Asuka, Nara again.
 Yamato will continue drumming and seeking encounters.
 From "Yamato-no-kuni" to the World.
 And from the world to "Yamato-no-kuni" again.
 We continue our journey.





www.yamatodrummers.com

www.yamato.jp