



amanojaku

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June 21, 2006

For Immediate Release

Master Taiko Teacher Beats Barriers in Brazil

Yoichi Watanabe

Nippon Taiko Foundation First Level Taiko Instructor, Amanojaku Leader

(TOKYO) Yoichi Watanabe, founder and leader of Amanojaku, one of the world's most respected taiko (Japanese drum) ensembles, has been appointed by the Nippon Taiko Foundation to teach the traditional Japanese art form in Brazil. The program represents a bold, innovative move by the Nippon Taiko Foundation and Amanojaku, in overcoming cultural and linguistic barriers, to spread Japanese culture throughout a nation known for its percussion.

Mr. Watanabe, well-known for his teaching and performing abilities, is a First Level Taiko Instructor certified by the Nippon Taiko Foundation, as well as a Special Advisor for Cultural Exchange appointed by the Japanese government. A pioneer in the taiko world, Mr. Watanabe has performed in over 40 nations including the United States, Germany, Scotland, and Indonesia. He has worked with Living National Treasure Hozan Yamamoto, jazz greats Akira Sakata and Nobuo Hara, as well as Hogaku percussionist Kiyohiko Semba.

From July 5th – 26th, Mr. Watanabe will lead Nippon Taiko Seminars in Sao Paulo, Jundiai, and Maringa. The program hopes to further catalyze taiko in Brazil, where recognition of the art is growing tremendously, as a result of the Nippon Taiko Foundation's efforts.

About Amanojaku – <http://amanojaku.info>

Amanojaku's sound features a distinctive modernity combined with traditional techniques. The group has toured over 40 nations, including Thailand ('06), the United States ('05) and Brazil ('04). Amanojaku has performed at the prestigious Japanese National Theatre four times.

CONTACT

Amanojaku

Isaku Kageyama

5-9-11-101 Minami Tanaka Nerima-ku Tokyo, Japan

TEL: +81 (0)3-3904-1745 FAX: +81 (0)3-3904-9434

E-Mail: isaku.kageyama@amanojaku.info

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