

WELCOME to the JAPAN FESTIVAL WELLINGTON

Festival Schedule

Date	Time	Event	Venue
6-11 July	9am-5pm	Friend to Friend Exhibition	Fletcher Challenge Foyer
10 July	7.15-9am	Business Breakfast	Town Hall Auditorium
10 July	5.30-7pm	Opening Ceremony	Town Hall Auditorium
10-11 July	7-9pm	Music Fair of Japan	lloft Theatre
11 July	1-8pm	Food and Craft Market	Town Hall Auditorium
11 July	1-1.30pm	Sushi Workshop	lloft Theatre
11 July	1.30-2.30pm	Long Sushi Challenge	West Court
11 July	1.30-7pm	Cultural Show (Taiko Drum, Martial Arts Demonstration, Calligraphy, Clown LOTO!!, Street Dance, Puppet Show, Fashion Show, Marimba,)	Town Hall Auditorium
11 July	2.30-4pm	Friend to Friend Public Speaking Contest	lloft Theatre
11 July	3-4pm	Tea Ceremony	Square Affair Suite

Organised by:

Absolutely POSITIVELY Wellington
ME HEKE KI PŌNEKE WELLINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Embassy of Japan

asia:nz FOUNDATION

Sponsored by:

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Commemorative Organization for The Japan World Exposition '70

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Message from the Mayor of Wellington
Kerry Prendergast

I am delighted to welcome all visitors to the Japan Festival of Wellington.

The festival is a celebration of two significant anniversaries: the 15th Anniversary of the Wellington-Sakai Sister City Relationship and the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Japan Society of Wellington.

Japan is home to an amazing and unique culture. The Japan Festival of Wellington gives us a welcome taste of this culture.

Throughout the week we will be treated to a fantastic array of performances and displays and some wonderful Japanese food.

I wish the festival all the best - and I hope that the Japan Festival of Wellington will become a regular event in Wellington as we continue to celebrate an enduring friendship which spans the Pacific.

Kerry Prendergast
Mayor of Wellington

A message from the Ambassador of Japan
Toshihiro Takahashi

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Japan Festival of Wellington, Wellington's largest Japanese cultural event.

The festival offers a diverse range of Japanese culture. The Embassy of Japan proudly presents two concerts called the Music Fair of Japan 2009, performed by top Japanese musicians, street dance performances by Japanese dance studio members from Sydney, and a musical puppetry performance.

This year we celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Wellington-Sakai Sister City Relationship and the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Japan Society of Wellington. I would like to acknowledge these two very significant milestones.

I sincerely hope that this festival will further foster ties between the Japanese community and other communities in Wellington.

Toshihiro Takahashi
Ambassador of Japan

A message from the Mayor of Sakai
Keisuke Kihara

On behalf of the 840,000 residents of Sakai, I am pleased to send our warm greetings to Wellington for the Japan Festival.

Since Sakai and Wellington became sister cities in February 1994, we have been visiting each other and strengthening our relationship through many cultural, sport and educational exchange programmes. I am very proud of the strong friendship that has developed between our two cities and would like to thank everyone who has contributed to it.

Sakai is one of Japan's leading cities with a long history and ancient traditions. The Nintoku-ryo Tumulus is one of the three largest tombs in the world and we are trying to get it registered as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The tea ceremony was perfected by Sakai-born Sen no Rikyu. We have many other historical sites and traditional handcrafts which have been passed on.

Together with the traditional industry of Sakai knives, there are many specialist and high-tech companies like bicycle company Shimano, which are globally competitive. The Sharp Corporation is constructing the world's largest-scale LCD and solar panel plant and we expect this to attract many people to the city and bring increased high-tech business opportunities.

Celebrating the 15th anniversary of our sister city relationship, we hope that the friendship and mutual understanding between our cities will continue to grow and prosper. We very much look forward to hosting more people from Wellington in Sakai.

Keisuke Kihara
Mayor of Sakai City

Traditional and modern fashion show to wow Wellington

The fashion show covers a wide range of Traditional and modern Japanese fashion including Kimono, Uniforms, Ganguro and Gothic Lolita.

Japan's Gothic Lolita street fashion phenomenon, better known as Loli-Goth, hits the runway.

Loli-Goth is inspired by fashions from the Rococo, Romantic and Victorian periods. It draws its inspiration from historical mourning garb, maidservants' wear, children's dresses, and dolls' clothes. The parade will feature five Loli-Goth garments

created and constructed by AUT University Fashion staff members for the Auckland Museum exhibition.

Aucklanders Bevan Chuang, Anny Wang, Szu Kao and Bomi Park will stage a fashion parade and presentation based on the 2007 Auckland War Memorial Museum exhibition Loli-Pop, which was supported by Asia:NZ. The exhibition was curated by Kathryn Hardy Bernal in association with Bevan.

Models Bevan Chuang, Anny Wang, Szu Kao and Bomi Park have been brought to Wellington by the Asia New Zealand Foundation.



Street dance Japanese-style comes to town

The Natural High Dance Team from Sydney's renowned Dancekool studio will be a star attraction at next month's Japan Festival of Wellington.

Top hip hop Dancekool members Satoshi (Japan), Jono (New Zealand), Masaki (Japan), Hyungik (Korea) and Naohisa (Japan) will perform a dance choreographed especially for the festival.

Founded in 2002, Dancekool is the first and finest street dance studio in Sydney. It is also the only one to have focused on hip hop over the years.

Dancekool has developed a reputation for authentic street styles and professional teaching and has taught and performed all over the world, including Japan, the United States, China and the Philippines.

The school runs and is involved with many dance events throughout the year to help showcase and encourage the growth of hip hop dance.

The Natural High Dance Team has been brought to Wellington by the Japan Foundation, Sydney.



Garden of Japanese delights

A spectacular celebration of Japanese culture gets underway at the Wellington Town hall on Saturday 11 July.

The inaugural Japan Festival of Wellington is organised by Wellington City Council with support from the Embassy of Japan and Asia New Zealand Foundation.

Bring along family or friends and relax in the tranquil ambience of the age-old Japanese tea ceremony, try your hand at writing a haiku poem or take part in a competition to roll New Zealand's longest sushi.

International performers include the amazing Clown LOTO!!, puppeteers Dalmamori and Eriko, and street dance Japanese-style from Sydney's famous Dancekool.

Renowned classical musicians from Japan will give two free concerts at the Iltott Theatre during the festival, one on Friday 10 July and the second on Saturday 11 July.

There'll also be food stalls, Japanese traditional and street fashion, children's entertainment and a language competition.

This exciting free festival celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Japan Society of Wellington and the 15th anniversary of the sister city relationship between Wellington and Sakai.

Musical puppetry captivates kids

Whoever heard of a two-humped camel getting lost in the desert? Or stranger still, a mermaid in an oasis?

These are just some of the strange goings-on in a musical puppetry show by Japanese puppeteers Dalmamori and Eriko at the festival.

Dalmamori's stories of a snake ball, a shining moon drum and a mysterious shadow merchant draw children into a creative wonderland, full of humour and fantasy.

Dalmamori launched his original musical puppet shows with musical accompaniment by Eriko seven years ago. He also produces handmade picture books and musical instruments which can be heard during the puppet performances.

Do not miss this spectacular mix of music, puppetry and storytelling brought to you by the Japan Foundation and the Embassy of Japan.



Music Fair of Japan 2009 - a night of Japanese harmony

Two free Music Fair of Japan concerts featuring leading Japanese musicians will be a major drawcard at the festival.

The concert at 7pm on Friday 10 July will include solo and ensemble performances on piano, flute, violin, koto and shamisen. On Saturday 11 July the concert will also feature a guest performance by NZSO Principal Contrabassist Hiroshi Ikematsu.

The Music Fair of Japan is presented by the Embassy of Japan in association with the Japan Foundation.

While the concerts are free of charge, bookings are required to secure seats. For enquiries or further information, please contact the Embassy of Japan on (04) 495 8333 or email japan.cul@eoj.org.nz

The visiting artists are:

Susumu Aoyagi (piano)

A child maestro, Aoyagi made his first orchestral debut with the Fort Worth Symphony when he was only nine. At the age of 23, he won the sixth prize at the prestigious Marguerite-Long-Jacques-Thibaud International Competition and shortly after began touring the world. Aoyagi has produced five solo CDs, all have been highly acclaimed.

Takako Hagiwara (flute)

A graduate from the Tokyo University of the Arts, Hagiwara is an active international performer, regularly competing in numerous recital contests internationally. She has received exceptional praise from distinguished music specialists such as cellist Mstislav Rostropovich and clarinetist Peter Schmidl from the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra.

Ayako Ishikawa (violin)

An outstanding Merit Scholarship student from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Ishikawa (Eminence: Destiny, Piano Stories, Passion) graduated from the Con as the principal violinist with First Class Honours. Ishikawa was selected as Best Performer of 2003 at Australia's Overall Instrumental Winner's Concert, and won the Australian Musician's Academy Award in 2001.

Risa Kataoka (Koto and Shamisen)

An expert in the koto and shamisen, Kataoka has had the honour to play for their Imperial Highnesses Prince and Princess Akishino in 2007. Her versatility extends to playing everything from koto classics to singing bel canto opera. She has appeared in numerous shows on television, radio and commercial broadcasts.

Clown LOTO!! set to steal the show

Japan's award-winning Clown LOTO!! will be one of the highlights of the festival.

Clown LOTO!! otherwise known as Yoshinori Fukai, followed the example of millions of his compatriots and began his career as a businessman.

Three years later, at the age of 22, he threw away his briefcase and became Clown LOTO!! Circus Gagstar. Since then, Clown LOTO!! has performed at festivals in Japan, China and the United States, including the Smithsonian Museum.

Earlier this year he also performed in New Zealand at the World Buskers Festival, where he stole the show with what the Christchurch Press termed his "goofy charm, impeccable timing, a real sense of physical theatre and some pretty nifty magic tricks".

Whether its rhythmic gymnastics, pantomime, magic or juggling, Clown LOTO!! is guaranteed to have you in stitches.

Look out for Clown LOTO!! busking around Wellington in the run up to the festival.

Clown LOTO!! has been brought to Wellington by the Asia New Zealand Foundation.

The Japan Festival is organised by Wellington City Council with support from the Embassy of Japan and Asia:NZ.

