

Press Release:

Chimugukuru: A Celebration of the Heart, Soul and Spirit.

Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Orphan Benefit Concert, October 16th, 2014.

Join us for a special evening of Okinawan song and drum-dance to benefit orphans of the Japan earthquake and tsunami, on October 16th, 7 p.m., at the Michael J. Fox Theatre in Burnaby, B.C. Vancouver Okinawa Taiko presents “Chimugukuru: Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Orphan Benefit Concert”, with all proceeds from the concert donated to the Ashinaga Education and Scholarship Organization. For 50 years now, Ashinaga has been providing educational and psychological support to children worldwide who have lost their parents. Two years ago, Vancouver Okinawa-ken Yuaikai held another benefit concert for the same cause. Proceeds from that concert went toward the completion of three Tohoku Rainbow Houses-support centres for orphaned children- in the cities of Sendai, Rikuzentakada and Ishinomaki in the Tohoku region.

Chimugukuru means “compassion” in the Okinawan language, and this concert features renowned Okinawan performing artists *Chijinshu Wakatiida* and *Hidekatsu*.

Chijinshu Wakatiida is an Okinawan taiko group that was formed in 1992, under the auspices of the Urasoe City legislative assembly in Okinawa. *Chijinshu* refers to people who play taiko, and *tiida* refers to the Sun in Okinawan language. *Chijinshu Wakatiida*’s mission is to represent the region’s tradition and culture such as the *Ryukyu-Japanese* taiko drums, *Eisa* drum-dancing and Okinawa lion dancing. *Chijinshu Wakatiida* is known not only for its members’ sophisticated technical skills but also for its efforts in the preservation and legacy creation of Okinawa’s traditional performing arts. The group contribute to youth development through their taiko instructions to young people, and is active in charity concerts and volunteer activities.

Hidekatsu is an Okinawan musician, producer, and representative of Okinawan progressive sound from Taketomi Island in the southern islands of Yaeyama. He is best known for his beloved song “Mirukumunari”, which hit the air in 1993. He produces and composes music for *Eisa* dancing, *Ryukyu Buyoh* (Okinawan traditional dance), commercials and movies.

The concert also features the large Hira taiko, 4 feet in diameter, made by taiko maker Dan Lindenmeyer. Sadly, his studio “World Sphere Taiko” was greatly damaged by the mudslide that hit Arlington, Washington State last spring.

We look forward to seeing you at *A Celebration of the Heart, Soul and Spirit*.

October 16 2014, 7 p.m. (doors open 6 p.m.)

Michael J Fox Theatre, 7373 MacPherson Avenue, Burnaby, B.C. V5J 2B7

Tickets available at the door: \$20, Students/Seniors \$10, Free for 3 years and under.

Pre-purchase tickets: 604-250-9532 or chimugukuru3112011@gmail.com

Info: vanokinawataiko.ca