

Fellow World Artists,

Fifth World Music and Dance Festival, Japan 2012



Photos by Hideyuki Emoto

The World Music and Dance Festival (WMDF) is the first Japanese festival to concentrate on bringing large numbers of overseas performers to the country. Staged in Hakodate City on the north island of Hokkaido, we have annually featured artists from around a dozen countries and attracted total audiences of over 30,000. The event is maturing into a multi-stage fixture on the international calendar, from August 04 to 10.

The Festival is centered around outdoor concert stages in a park with a spectacular view in front of Hakodate Mountain, and also incorporates numerous smaller scale performances and workshops at “Fringe” events around the town.

We are supported by a 150-strong organising committee comprising staff from all walks of life in Hakodate City, and especially by the members of “Hinoki-ya”, a traveling band formed in Hakodate. Hinoki-ya have appeared at music festivals around the world, including Croatia, Brazil, France, Greece, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. They are proud and excited to have the chance to use their experience to create an unforgettable tradition in their home town. In 2010, we also formed a non-profit “General Incorporated Association” (GIA) under Japanese law to be responsible for the Festival.

2009 marked Hakodate’s 150th anniversary, and WMDF celebrated this by looking not just at the past, but also by encouraging a long view of the future: “150 years past, 150 years forward”. Music and dance are excellent models for this kind of “Long Now” view of the world, since they link us to past histories and ideas whilst at the same time providing a model for how ideas and culture can become the heritage of future generations. We number the 2012 edition of WMDF as “005” instead of just “5” to represent our ambition to survive at least 999 years!

We would like to invite you to participate in WMDF 005. Especially, we are looking for performers that can help us appreciate connections with the past, glimpse the possibilities of the future, and understand our own significance to the present. We have summarised the terms and conditions below, and there is also extensive information available in English on our web site, <http://wmdf.org/en>, under the section “Artists”. We supply official invitations to groups that complete our application forms and are approved by the Committee.

The people of Hakodate are very much looking forward to welcoming you to our town, to making your stay a memorable one, and to your performances.

Sincerely yours,

Ian Frank, Chairman of WMDF
WMDF GIA Co-President

Naoto Soga, Artistic Director of WMDF
WMDF GIA Co-President

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一般社団法人 WMDF

代表理事 フランク・イアン・ヘンリー



Leader of Hinoki-ya

Hakodate good will ambassador



2012 CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATING GROUPS: WMDF 005

Event Name: 2012 World Music and Dance Festival, Hakodate
"Kokusai Minzoku Geijutsu Sai"
English Web site: <http://wmdf.org/en/>
Place and Country: Hakodate, Japan
Dates: Aug 04 - Aug 10, 2012
Audience: About 30,000
Organization: Committee of the World Music and Dance Festival, WMDF GIA
Chairman: Ian Frank
Collaboration: Hakodate City Culture and Sports Promoting Foundation
Assistance: Hakodate City, Hakodate City Board of Education
Artistic Director: Naoto Soga
Production: Hitococochi, Inc.

1. Preliminary Schedule for Groups, August 2012:

- Fri 03: Earliest date for participants' arrival (long-haul travel)
- Sat 04: Latest date for participants' arrival, reception party
- Sun 05 - Thu 09: Workshops & Evening Festival performance (outdoor stage)
- Fri 10: Staff Concert / Farewell party
- Sat 11: Participants depart

2. Duration of Performances:

- Festival Performances: 15, 20 mins.
- Outreach (Old peoples' homes, schools, etc): 30-40 minutes.
- Fringe Performances: 10-20 min.
- Workshops (for elementary school children and public): 60 min.

Note: Festival performances bring together many overseas groups to perform at an outdoor stage (weather permitting) in front of a large audience. Our experience is that some WMDF-goers will attend several (or even all) the Festival performances. We therefore hope that visiting groups can prepare Festival sets with some variation.

Fringe and Outreach performances spread the news of the Festival to different locations around our area, and will typically feature just two overseas groups, maybe also with local Japanese groups.

3. Stage Details:

• Main Stage

- The stage has a frontage of 10.8m and a depth of 9.0m.
- We have 8 Shure 58 microphones (or equivalent) with boom stands, and monitor speakers for performers.
- Standard lighting (RGB) equipment.
- There are no special effects on stage.

• Second Stage

- The stage has a frontage of 5.4m and a depth of 3.6m.
- We have 4 Shure 58 microphones (or equivalent) with boom stands, and monitor speakers for performers.
- Standard lighting (RGB) equipment.
- There are no special effects on stage.



4. WMDF Agrees to Provide For All Accepted Groups:

- Free meals and accommodations during their time Hakodate.
- Transport within Hakodate (from/to Hakodate airport, and between the stages and accommodations).
- General event insurance and first aid.
- Adequate dressing room facilities directly adjacent to the main stage area, and also next to an area where evening meals will be served.
- Provisions to support the sale of group CDs and other small goods at primary events.

Note: Since we cannot be responsible for the security of expensive items, or large amounts of currency, we ask that groups do not bring large numbers of goods, or goods with high intrinsic value. The WMDF application form requires each group to provide a list of goods with prices in yen. WMDF cannot be responsible for errors in exchange rate calculations, and we reserve the right to refuse to sell items not described to us in the application form beforehand.

5. All Applying Groups Agree To:

- Play live music (not tapes, CDs, etc.)
- Perform with up to 15 people (or 25 people for groups including dancers)
- Cover all transport and expenses to/from Hakodate.
- Ensure current medical insurance (please bring a copy of certificate for us)
- Pay own visa application fees
- Be in attendance for the entire Festival period

Note 1: Groups wishing to attend with more than the maximum numbers listed above may incur an extra charge of 5,000YEN/person/night. However, we have in the past granted exemptions for free of extra group members, so we encourage you to contact WMDF early to discuss your situation. Please be aware that it may only be possible to make the final decision on excess charges once WMDF has decided on its final list of participants.

Note 2: We do not recommend arriving in Sapporo. It is far from Hakodate and will add a five hour coach journey to your route. Note that since August is peak season, internal flights may be crowded, so please book early. There are several daily flights between Tokyo and Hakodate, and one flight from Kansai. Korean airlines also flies to Hakodate from Seoul, although this has been earthquake affected.

Note 3: Stays shorter than the Festival duration should be discussed with the Committee in advance.

Note 4: During your stay, it is likely that you may be accompanied by television or print media reporters. Reasonable cooperation with these reporting activities, and the agreement to allow footage, images, and interviews to be used in TV broadcasts, and for publicity and advertisement of the WMDF, are assumed to be a condition of participation at the Festival.

6. Application Procedure:

Please send us both of the following electronic and physical materials:

• Electronic:

- The WMDF 2011 application form, with Section 1 and checklist completed (available online).
Preferential attention may be given to applications that make a connection with the WMDF concept.
- Some original photos (reproduction quality)

• Physical:

- A DVD or DVD-R with performances (sorry, not DVD-RW)
- A CD or CD-R for promotion
- Any promotional fliers or publicity materials for events that the group has been involved in.

You may also send us links to online videos, etc, but preference will be given to applicants who send us professional physical materials. Please send these promotional materials to arrive by Friday October 30, 9am JST (please confirm by e-mail to wmdf@wmdf.org when you send us a package by post).

Note 1: Should your group's application be accepted by the Committee, the supplied information and materials will be used by WMDF for posters, fliers, TV broadcast, and other promotion.

Note 2: Participation in WMDF also implies the acceptance of the rights of WMDF to place representative short videos of group performances online.

Note 3: In 2011, we introduced an "Open Japan" policy to help show the world that the country was recovering from the Great Tohoku Earthquake. We are continuing this policy of encouraging audience members to photograph and video the Free Stage events, and to post online to show the world that Japan is open. For videos, we ask audience members to display common sense: we think that around one minute is a fair length to record, and our staff will ask people obviously making recordings longer



than this to stop. In general, WMDF reserves on behalf of the artists the exclusive copyright for all photographs and recordings made at any venue, and the above permission to record and use images of Free Stage events excludes any usage that leads to profit-making. If you would prefer us to modify this policy for your performances, please let us know in advance.

7. Deadlines:

30 Oct: Application deadline for following August's WMDF, 9am JST

3rd Sat of Dec: WMDF makes final selections of groups and waiting list

1 Mar: Deadline for submission of fully completed WMDF application forms, including namelists

1 Apr: Main Deadline. All groups should ensure that namelists, concrete travel reservations, and funding are settled by this date. Since the WMDF waiting list typically contains groups with guaranteed funding, we will ask invited groups whose plans are not finalised to consider holding over their participation to another year. We will then minimise potential disruption by recruiting guaranteed replacements from the waiting list.

10 May: Final Deadline. Final date by which all groups (including groups approached from the waiting list) should finalise all details. For groups from countries that require visas to visit Japan, WMDF requires a visa application number from an application successfully submitted to an Embassy by this date.

Note: Failure to meet deadlines may result in withdrawal of invitation letter.

Contact: Committee of the WMDF

c/o Hitocochi Inc.

52-1 Jinkawa-cho, Hakodate-shi, Hokkaido 041-0833 JAPAN

Phone: +81-138-51-5727 (apologies, but Japanese only)

Fax: +81-138-51-6465

Email: wmdf@wmdf.org

Note: We are sorry but since our office cannot guarantee telephone interaction in a language other than Japanese, we request you put your correspondence in fax or email. Please also note that the WMDF email is generally only staffed on weekdays from 9am to 5pm, Japan time.

