

Japanese Dance “Jiutamai” Workshops and Performances 2023

From May 12 – 15, 2023, the Embassy of Japan in Trinidad & Tobago presented – Japanese Dance ‘Jiutamai’ Performances and Workshops in collaboration with the Centre for Language learning (CLL), the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), The Academy for the Performing Arts (APA) and National Library and Information System Authority (NALIS), as part of the celebrations leading up to the 60th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Trinidad and Tobago in 2024. The performances and workshops were free and open to the public.

The Jiutamai Dance group consisted of professional dancers and musicians from Japan, including Ms. Tokijyo Hanasaki – Jiutamai Dancer and Choreographer, Ms. Kaname Hanasaki – Juiamai Dancer, Mr. Hyakushichi Fukuhara – Japanese Traditional Flute Performer and Mr. Shogo Hiyoshi – Japanese Traditional Sangen Performer. The performances also included Ms. Sayori Imai, a Japanese Steel pan player, living in Trinidad.

The Centre for Language Learning (CLL) and National Library and Information System Authority (NALIS) each hosted workshops which allowed the public to engage with the performers and learn more about the intricacies of the Jiutamai dance and traditional Japanese instruments used by the musicians. Those present were able to practice and perform the Jiutamai dance with the performers.

Following the completion of each workshop, performances of the Jiutamai dance took place. At the start of the performances, welcome remarks were given by His Excellency Yutaka Matsubara, Ambassador of Japan, followed by and Dr. Diego Mideros, Coordinator of Spanish, on behalf of the Centre for Language Learning (CLL), and Ms. Paula Greene, Executive Director, National Library and Information Systems Authority (NALIS) respectively.

For the Jiutamai performances at the Academy for Performing Arts (APA), the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), NAPA Campus, welcome remarks were given by Ambassador Matsubara and Professor Prakash Persad, President of UTT and Dr. Roger Henry, Associate Professor of Music and Programme Leader on behalf of UTT on May 13 and May 14 respectively. The performances included a collaboration with the UTT

Pan Ensemble, performing Lord Kitchener's "Sugar Bum Bum" and the opening theme song "Gurenge" of the popular Anime – Kimetsu No Yaiba (Demon Slayer).



Ms. Kaname Hanasaki performs "Yuugao" or Moon Flower with music by Mr. Hyakushichi Fukuhara (Flute) and Mr. Shogo Hiyoshi (Sangen) at CLL on May 12, 2023



Ms. Tokijyo Hanasaki performs "Yuki" or Snow with music by Mr. Hyakushichi Fukuhara (Flute) and Mr. Shogo Hiyoshi (Sangen) at CLL on May 12, 2023



Ms. Tokijyo Hanasaki and Ms. Kaname Hanasaki conducts Jitumai dance Workshop at the Centre for Language Learning (CLL) on May 12, 2023



Ms. Kaname Hanasaki performs at NALIS on May 15, 2023



Ms. Tokijyo Hanasaki performs at NALIS on May 15, 2023



Group Photo after the performance at NALIS



Mr. Hyakushichi Fukuhara displays and discusses the Flute at the Workshop at NALIS on May 15, 2023



Ms. Tokijyo Hanasaki leads the Jutamai dance Workshop at NALIS on May 15, 2023



Group Photo after the Workshop at NALIS



Ms. Kaname Hanasaki performs “Fumizuki” or
July with music by Mr. Hyakushichi Fukuhara
(Flute) and Mr. Shogo Hiyoshi (Sangen) with
Ms. Sayori Imai (Steelpan) at UTT APA on May
13, 2023



Group Photo of the performers after the
performance at UTT APA on May 13, 2023.



Group Photo after the performance at UTT APA on May 14, 2023.



Ms. Kaname Hanasaki performs “Fumizuki” or July with music by Mr. Hyakushichi Fukuhara (Flute) and Mr. Shogo Hiyoshi (Sangen) with Ms. Sayori Imai (Steelpan) at UTT APA on May 13, 2023



Ms. Tokijyo Hanasaki & Ms. Kaname Hanasaki performs “Kotobuki “ or Congratulations, with music by Mr. Hyakushichi Fukuhara (Flute), Mr. Shogo Hiyoshi (Sangen) and Ms. Sayori Imai (Steelpan)



Group Photo after the performance at UTT APA on May 14, 2023.