

## Japanese Dance “Jiutamai” Performances and Workshop 2024

As part of the ongoing activities to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Diplomatic Relations between Japan, and Trinidad and Tobago and in celebration of Japan – CARICOM Friendship Year 2024, the Embassy of Japan presented – Japanese Dance ‘Jiutamai’ Performances and Workshop with the support of the Centre for Language learning (CLL), The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus, Queen’s Hall and The San Fernando Arts Council, the Creative Arts Centre. The performances and workshop 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. Shogo Hiyoshi – Japanese Traditional Koto Performer, and Mr. Kohei Matsumoto – Japanese Traditional Shakuhachi (Flute) Performer, as well as Mr. Mitsunaga Kanda – Face master (make-up artist) and Ms. Yukiko Sato, Costume dresser.

On April 30, a workshop and performance was organized at the Centre for Language Learning (CLL), The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus. The workshop was divided into two (2) segments. The first segment involved Mr. Kohei Matsumoto – Japanese Traditional Shakuhachi (Flute) Performer, demonstrating and teaching participants how to play the Shakuhachi (Flute).



Mr. Kohei Matsumoto – Japanese Traditional Shakuhachi (Flute) Performer teaches the participants how to play the flute

Following this, a lucky participant was selected from the audience to have the traditional Japanese style make-up applied by Mr. Mitsunaga Kanda, Face master (make-up artist) and dressed in the style of a Japanese Performer by Ms. Yukiko Sato, Costume dresser.



Mr. Mitsunaga Kanda apply make-up



Ms. Yukiko Sato dresses the model



Model in full outfit

Following the completion of the workshop, the performance of the Jiutamai dance took place, with welcome remarks given by His Excellency MATSUBARA Yutaka,

Ambassador of Japan, followed by Professor Indar Ramnarine, Deputy Principal, The UWI, St. Augustine Campus.



Ms. Kaname Hanasaki performs 'Kanegamisaki' (Cape of Kanegamisaki)



Mr. Shogo Hiyoshi on the Japanese Koto performs 'Isuzu Gawa, Matsuri no Taiko' (Isuzu River, Festival Drum)



From left to right:

Ambassador Matsubara, Professor Indar Ramnarine, Deputy Principal The UWI, Mr. Shogo Hiyoshi, Ms. Kaname Hanasaki, Ms. Tokijyo Hanasaki, Mr. Kohei Matsumoto, Dr. Nicole Roberts, Director of CLL and Mrs. Matsubara

On May 3, 2024, Jiutamai performance was held at Queen's Hall. At the start of the performance, welcome remarks were given by His Excellency MATSUBARA Yutaka, Ambassador of Japan, followed by Senator the Honourable Dr. Amery Browne, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs. The performance, in addition to the Traditional Japanese performers, included a collaboration with dancers from the Contemporary Choreographers Collective, namely, Mr. Dave Williams, Mrs. Louanna



Martin, Mrs. Jenai Cunningham-Blackman, Mr. Everalld 'Redman' Watson and Mr. Wayne 'Lion' Osuna. The performance also included Ms. Sayori Imai, on the steelpan, a Japanese national living in Trinidad. This final presentation is a dance and musical collaborative piece that transcended cultural borders.



Ms. Kaname Hanasaki performs 'Kanegamisaki' (Cape of Kanegamisaki)



Ms. Tokijyo Hanasaki performs 'Yamanba' (Mountain Witch)



Contemporary Choreographers' Collective dancers Mr. Dave Williams, Mrs. Louanna Martin, Mrs. Jenai Cunningham-Blackman perform



Mr. Shogo Hiyoshi on the Japanese Koto, Mr. Kohei Matsumoto (Flute) and Ms. Sayori Imai (Steel pan) perform 'Haru no Umi' (Sea of Spring)



Dance and musical collaborative piece that transcended cultural borders



From left to right:

Ms. Kaname Hanasaki, Ambassador Matsubara, Senator the Honourable Dr. Amery Browne, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, Mrs. Matsubara and Ms. Tokijyo Hanasaki

On May 4, 2024, the final night of the Jiutamai performances, was held at the Creative Arts Centre in San Fernando. At the start of the performance, welcome remarks were given by His Excellency MATSUBARA Yutaka, Ambassador of Japan, followed by His Worship The Mayor, Councillor Robert Parris, Mayor of San Fernando.



Guests are welcomed to the Creative Arts Centre by the musical talent of a young artist



Mr. Takahiro Hara gives a brief explanation about the pieces



Ms. Tokijyo Hanasaki and Ms. Kaname Hanasaki perform Sakura Sakura



Ms. Kaname Hanasaki with music by Mr. Shogo Hiyoshi (Sangen) and Mr. Kohei Matsumoto (Flute)



From left to right:  
Ambassador Matsubara, Mr. Shogo Hiyoshi, Ms. Tokijyo Hanasaki, His Worship The Mayor,  
Councillor Robert Parris, Mayor of San Fernando, Ms. Kaname Hanasaki, Mr. Kohei  
Matsumoto and Mrs. Matsubara