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Winning Anime Art Competition entry by Yohan

FORT WAYNE Cherry BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

May 18, 2025 • PFW • Walb Student Union



An event brought to you by the Japanese American
Association of Indiana (JAAI), a 501(c)(3)
not-for-profit organization.



www.cherryblossomfw.com

Meet the Artists

Classical Guitarist & Flutist

Dr. Daniel Quinn and Aleksandra Kemble

Classical Guitarist Dr. Daniel Quinn has been an active performer for over forty years. He has performed as a soloist in numerous concerts and recitals around the United States, Canada, and Japan. Dan completed his B.M., M.M., and D.M. in classical guitar performance at the Indiana University school of music in Bloomington, Indiana under Ernesto Bitetti. He has also been an instructor of guitar for thirty-five years at colleges such as Indiana University - Bloomington, Huntington College, University of St. Francis, University of Indianapolis, and the Tokyo College of Music. He currently teaches at St. Mary's and Holy Cross colleges in Notre Dame Indiana, and at Indiana University South Bend, as well as at Sweetwater in Fort Wayne. Dan is a native of Fort Wayne.



Aleksandra Kemble, a native of Slovakia, came to the USA in 2002. She holds a Doctor of Arts degree in flute performance from Ball State University. Aleksandra holds positions of the principal flute with the LaPorte and Elkhart Symphonies, the Lyric Opera of South Bend, the Sacred Music Festival Orchestra of Notre Dame, and performed as a substitute flute and piccolo player with the South Bend Symphony Orchestra, Round Barn Theatre (Nappanee, IN), Symphony of the Lakes (Warsaw, IN), Southwest Symphony (St. Joseph, MI), and Orchestra Indiana (Muncie, IN). Besides loving her orchestral and chamber music collaboration with her colleagues, Aleksandra is a devoted educator and holds several university positions as their adjunct professor faculty of flute (Indiana University South Bend, IN; Andrews University, MI; Bethel University, IN; St. Mary's College, IN). Aleksandra gave and attended many master classes and concerts throughout the USA and Europe and studied with teachers that broadened her knowledge and passion for flute. She is also trained as a Suzuki method educator and enjoys being multilingual that allows her to appreciate multiculturalism that she grew up with.



Tea Ceremony

Tea Ceremony, the ritualized preparation and presentation of matcha, a powdered green tea, will be demonstrated in Ura Senke Style.



Kendama

Mike Tsugawa

Kendama is a popular Japanese skill toy. Mike Tsugawa, a 3rd Dan in the Japanese Kendama Association, will demonstrate tricks and techniques. Mike has taught Japanese at Michigan City High School since 2002, and was recognized as Teacher of the year by the Indiana Foreign Language Teacher Association in 2016.



Fort Wayne Children's Choir, Chamber Singers

Music Director Jonathan Busarow

Fort Wayne Children's Choir, Chamber Singers, provides a choral program exemplifying artistic and educational excellence for children from diverse backgrounds. Over 300 students participate in the choir, which contributes to the community's cultural environment. FWCC is proud to represent 88 different schools in addition to 29 home school groups from 8 north east Indiana and northwest Ohio counties.



Fort Wayne Suzuki Strings

Music Director Janet Klickman

Suzuki string students learn through the "Mother Tongue Method" first developed by Shinichi Suzuki. This concept is based on the way children learn to speak, which is first by hearing the music, then learning to read and write it. We have violin, viola, and cello students, ranging in age from 7 to 15.



Japan Karate-Do Genbukai of Indiana

Japan Karate-Do Genbukai of Indiana offers traditional Japanese karate and kobudo classes for children and adults. The Genbu-Kai is an international organization that encompasses 32 countries and thousands of members. Our program teaches karate-do. Karate is a form of self-defense that uses all parts of the body, while Do is character development; both aspects are viewed as equally important.



Meet the Artists

Fort Wayne Taiko (with kaDON)

Director Allison Ballard

Artistic Director Sara Sherman

Fort Wayne Taiko, a program of the Fort Wayne Dance Collective, was established in 1997 and was the first performing taiko group in Indiana. This year they are joined by the kaDON taiko community and a special guest artist Kaoly Asano. kaDON is an online platform dedicated to empowering taiko players around the world. Kaoly Asano is a pioneering taiko leader in Tokyo, Japan, as well as a kaDON teacher and workshop leader. Her free spirited approach blends tradition with innovation and builds its energy upon connections with those around us and our roots. Enjoy this amazing collaboration.



Spirit Bomb - Anime Tribute

Special Acoustic Performance

SPIRIT BOMB is an explosive Anime tribute band known for their unforgettable live concert experiences. If you are a fan of Anime, Cosplay and Japanese Culture, then you don't want to miss this! Get ready to dance and sing along to your favorite hits, fueled by stunning visuals.



Since 2022, SPIRIT BOMB has appeared at anime conventions across the US as well as hosting their "ANIME MUSIC EXPERIENCE" concerts in major city markets. In 2023, SPIRIT BOMB opened for the breakthrough Japanese Female Rock band HANABIE on their first US tour and debuted their first original single, "Asai Yume," available for streaming worldwide.

Gotokukan of Indianapolis (Kendo)

Gotokukan of Indianapolis (Kendo) follows the principles of budo and the way of the sword. They teach students of all ages the traditional Japanese art of kendo, passed down through Imafuji-sensei, Renshi 7-Dan, from his sensei in Japan. Kendo teaches one not just to swing the sword, but how to use the body, the mind, and the spirit in harmony to overcome your opponents and any challenges that lie before you.



Miyabi Koto and Shamisen Ensemble

Masayo Ishigure and Kenneth Hutchinson

Masayo Ishigure began playing the koto and jiuta shamisen at the age of five in Gifu, Japan. After initial studies with Tadao and Kazue Sawai, Masayo became a special research student in 1986 at the Sawai Koto Academy of Music. The academy incorporates many influences from classical to jazz and aims to change the perception of the koto from solely as a traditional Japanese instrument to an instrument of universal expressiveness. Ms. Ishigure received a degree in Japanese Traditional Music from Takasaki Junior Arts College with a concentration on koto and shamisen. Masayo moved to New York City in 1992 and has performed at Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall-Weill Recital Hall, Merkin Hall and other venues in the New York City metropolitan area. Masayo Ishigure has appeared in concerts and music festivals in Japan, Thailand, Brazil, Holland, France, Germany, Mexico, Russia, Jamaica, Hawaii South Korea and Alaska.



In 2005, Masayo Ishigure was a recording artist alongside Yitzhak Perlman, Yo-Yo Ma, and others on the Academy Award-Winning soundtrack from the movie "Memoirs of a Geisha" by John Williams.

Kenneth Hutchinson was born in New York City where he studied classical piano and blues guitar in his youth. In 1990 Ken moved to Japan to pursue his growing interest in Architecture and Design. A chance discovery of a shamisen in his grandmother's Tokyo home eventually led him to study with Masayo Ishigure in New York City. Since 2007 he has performed with Ms. Ishigure and the Miyabi Ensemble at numerous cultural events in the U.S. and abroad, including Sydney Australia, Honolulu Hawaii, Friday Night live hosted by the Consulate General of New York, Gifu Japan and the Japanese Embassy in Washington D.C.



Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai

We are a cultural organization that has been serving the Okinawan community for over 50 years. The Sanshin is a traditional 3-stringed instrument made from snake skin and wood. Shisa are traditional wards, believed to protect from evil spirits. At the festival we would like to show Okinawan drumming dance, Classic dance, and a traditional lion dance called Shishi-Mai.



FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

TIME	INTERNATIONAL BALLROOM
11:50 a.m.	Taiko Drumming
12:00 p.m.	Opening Ceremony 12:00-12:45
12:20 p.m.	FW Suzuki Strings & FW Children's Choir. Chamber Singers
12:30 p.m.	
12:40 p.m.	
1:00 p.m.	Miyabi Koto & Shamisen Ensemble 1:00-1:30
1:15 p.m.	
1:30 p.m.	
1:45 p.m.	Fort Wayne Taiko/KaDON 1:45-2:15
2:00 p.m.	
2:15 p.m.	
2:25 p.m.	Miyabi Koto & Shamisen Ensemble 2:25-2:55
2:45 p.m.	
3:00 p.m.	
3:10 p.m.	Fort Wayne Taiko/KaDON 3:10-3:40
3:30 p.m.	
3:45 p.m.	
4:00 p.m.	
4:10 p.m.	Spirit Bomb 4:10-4:40
4:30 p.m.	
4:45 p.m.	Cosplay Competition 4:45-5:15
5:00 p.m.	
5:15 p.m.	Anime Awards 5:15-5:45
5:30 p.m.	
5:45 p.m.	Cosplay Awards 5:45-6:00
6:00 p.m.	



Special Guests at the Opening Ceremony

PFW Chancellor Ron Eisenbaumer
& Japanese Consulate of Chicago Staff Member

Boys Day &
Girls Day Display
near the
Classic Ballroom

Exhibits by
Fort Wayne Sister Cities
International, FW Taiko,
Japanese Saturday School
& Japanese Club

Sponsorship Banners
in the
International Ballroom

TIME	CLASSIC BALLROOM
11:50 a.m.	
12:00 p.m.	
12:15 p.m.	
12:30 p.m.	Tea Ceremony 12:30-1:15
12:45 p.m.	
1:00 p.m.	
1:15 p.m.	
1:30 p.m.	
1:45 p.m.	Chicago Okinawa Kenjinkai 1:45-2:15
2:00 p.m.	
2:15 p.m.	
2:30 p.m.	Japan Karate-Do Genbukai 2:30-2:45
2:55 p.m.	Daniel Quinn & Aleksandra Kemble 2:55-3:25
3:15 p.m.	
3:30 p.m.	Gotokukan Kendo Club 3:30-3:50
3:55 p.m.	Japan Karate-Do Genbukai 3:50-4:10
4:15 p.m.	Kendama demonstration 4:15-4:40
4:30 p.m.	
4:45 p.m.	Gotokukan Kendo Club 4:45-5:05
5:00 p.m.	
5:15 p.m.	Haiku Readings & Awards 5:15-6:00
5:30 p.m.	
5:45 p.m.	
6:00 p.m.	

ACTIVITY	LOCATION	TIME
Anime Drawing Contest	Skybridge (2nd floor)	12:00-3:00
Bonsai Club Demonstrations	Plaza	12:00-6:00
Ball Scoop Water Game	Plaza	12:00-4:30
Children's Crafts	WU 114 (by Classic Ballroom)	12:30-5:45
Cosplay Competition Registration	Skybridge	12:00-4:00
Festival Marketplace	Walb & Plaza	12:00-6:00
Haiku Writing On-site	WU 223	12:30-4:15
Japan Club Dance Performance	Plaza near Ball Scoop Game	2:00
Karaoke	WU 222-226	12:00-6:00
Kendama Demonstrations	Atrium (except 4:15 performance)	12:00-6:00
Make the Cherry Tree Bloom	Atrium	12:30-5:30
Paper Cutting Workshop	Atrium Cafeteria	3:00-5:00
Quiet Room-calm, low stimulation area	G 021 (Lower Level)	12:00-6:00
Science Central Kites	Plaza	12:00-6:00
Taste of Japan	Plaza & Walb Student Union	12:00-6:00