

Japanisches Konzert - Tradition trifft Moderne:

Wasabi auf Europa-Tournee

9. Februar 2014 um 19.00 Uhr



Rudolf-Steiner-Haus, Mittelweg 11, 20148 Hamburg

Kostenfreies Konzert

Anmeldung bis zum 6. Februar 2014 an
hh-konsulat@bo.mofa.go.jp

Veranstalter:

Konsulat von Japan
in Hamburg

Konsulat von Japan in Hamburg
www.hamburg.emb-japan.go.jp



JAPANFOUNDATION

Japanisches Kulturinstitut Köln
www.iki.de

WASABI

Ryōichirō Yoshida, the elder of the two Yoshida brothers, has consistently pursued his ideal of appealing to the young generation by emphasising how cool and stylish Japanese traditional culture can be through the medium of music that makes exclusive use of Japanese instruments. It was in this context that he embarked on a project entitled 'The Spirit of Japan: The Sound of Traditional Instruments' that involved giving performances mainly at primary, junior high and senior high schools in Japan. This project got under way in 2008 as a collaboration between Yoshida and Hiromu Motonaga on shakuhachi and Naosaburō Bihō on drums and percussion. The group was supplemented by Shin Ichikawa on koto and bass koto in 2010.

The Tsugaru-jamisen and taiko drums are most frequently played in a folk music context, and it is rare for them to perform together with instruments such as the koto and the shakuhachi, which are customarily featured in classical genres such as Sōkyoku, Jiuta and the solo shakuhachi repertory. It is highly unusual in particular for the Tsugaru-jamisen to appear on stage together with a koto. This is

the background to the emergence of this new group featuring several of Japan's foremost traditional instruments such as Tsugaru-jamisen, shakuhachi, koto and taiko. This is a new development that is provoking a great deal of interest in the world of traditional Japanese music.



The group was given its name WASABI in 2011, combining the two elements *wa*, meaning 'Japan' or 'harmony', and *sabi* in its meaning of 'the catchy part of a song'. The group's debut album, also entitled WASABI, was released on March 21 last year and features compositions by all the group's members with the focus on original numbers using phrases associated with folk music and from the classical repertory. Release of the album was followed by a series of concerts open to the general public.

The music on the album has been put together with the emphasis on catchy melodies and compact structures. It has a power and dynamism that moves way beyond the aesthetic of elegance and refined lyricism that many people in Japan and elsewhere associate with Japanese traditional music.

The group is taking part together with the Yoshida Brothers in concerts such as *Wa no Saiten* and in a performance of *Macbeth*. They have also provided the music for the historical drama *Murakumo*. WASABI are gradually expanding the scope of their activities and are beginning to make a strong impact on the music scene.

Website: www.yoshida-brothers.jp