



Kurimoto Japanese Spring Festival June 5 at the Devonian Botanic Garden

A CELEBRATION OF CULTURE IN THE KURIMOTO JAPANESE GARDEN

(Edmonton, May 26, 2011) The Kurimoto Japanese Garden Spring Festival runs Sunday, June 5, from 11 am to 4 pm, with the exhilarating Taiko Drummers starting and ending the festival with a bang! The Japanese Spring Festival is one of the most popular events at the Garden and is a wonderful celebration of culture in the beautiful setting of the Kurimoto Japanese Garden.

The line-up of activities and performers this year includes:

- The fabulous **Taiko Drummers** (if you haven't seen this group, it is an amazing, powerful thing to behold – a very athletic and riveting performance)
- **Martial Arts Demonstrations** (Aikikai Karate, Gojukai, and Noble House Kenjutsu)
- This year, Noble House Kenjutsu (which is a martial art using swords) is displaying (and using during their demonstration!) a collection of **antique Japanese swords** dating back to the golden age of sword production during the Kamakura Shogunate (1185-1333), to the turbulent Sengoku Jidai (or warring states period), to the relative stability of the Edo Shogunate, up to the present day. These swords are functional pieces of art.
- The colourful, delightful **Awa Odori Japanese Dancers**
- **Traditional Japanese Tea Ceremonies**. If you're not lucky enough to get one of the limited number of tickets to the tea ceremony, there will also be matcha tea and Japanese sweet samples served on the outside bench beside the Ozawa Pavilion teahouse, overlooking the pond in the Japanese Garden
- Musical performances with the **Koto (Japanese Lute)** and **Shakuhachi Flute Master Alcvin Ryuzen Ramos**
- **Chigiri-e art show and sale**. Chigiri-e is an exquisite form of art that utilizes tiny pieces of coloured torn paper, with finished pieces that end up looking like beautiful, complex watercolour paintings. You have to see it to believe it!
- **Bonsai Displays**
- **Animee Artists**
- **Japanese Calligraphy Demonstrations**
- **Children's Activities** with games and crafts that children from Japan enjoy (yo-yo's, stilts, origami and more!)
- **Japanese food** samples from Sushi Wasabi
- **Japanese Embroidery** displays and demonstrations



Kurimoto Japanese Spring Festival cont'd

It is not possible to hold a festival celebrating Japanese culture in 2011 without recognizing the terrible events that took place this spring in Japan. In light of this, donations will be accepted for Earthquake / Tsunami Relief and during the opening ceremonies there will be a moment of silence to honour the victims.

- 30 -

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Devonian Botanic Garden

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