

Kawachi Ondo Yao Festa

Sunday, March 16th, 2025 - Performance starts at 1:00 p.m. (doors open at 12:30 p.m.), finishes at approximately 4:30 p.m.

While the venue is open on the day of the performance, we will be offering a free dance tip lecture and drum (taiko) workshop at the lobby for anyone interested!

Program(Host: Makiko Iida)

* The program may change.

* One act is approximately 20 minutes. Please be aware that the estimated finishing time may change due to the rate of progress.

①13:00 – 14:35

1 ●From “100 best scenes from my hometown, Yao” Yao Children’s Kawachi Ondo Ambassadors

The Yao Children’s Kawachi Ondo Ambassadors are the children who have passed an audition and have attended the “Children’s Kawachi Ondo lecture” held at Yao City Cultural Hall Prism Hall.

After learning the basic techniques for singing, playing instruments and dancing, they have been designated as the Yao Children’s Kawachi Ondo Ambassadors.

Please enjoy the children’s song, dance and instrumental performances that feature Yao’s famous spots, specialties, and many other charms.

2 ●“Rickshaw Man” by Kowakamaru Tenryu

A hit number by late Hideo Murata

Matsugoro Tomishima, a short-tempered yet warm-hearted rickshaw puller who works in Kokura, Fukuoka Prefecture (present-day Kitakyushu City), is a beloved character nicknamed “Muhoumatsu (Rickshaw man).”

One day, Matsugoro helps a boy who has hurt his leg and becomes close to the boy’s father Yoshioka, an army captain. Yet this friendship does not last long, due to the captain’s sudden death. Matsugoro does everything in his power to support Yoshioka’s widow and son, Toshio. While having secret feelings for Yoshioka’s widowed wife, Matsugoro watches Toshio grow just as if he were his own child, until the fateful farewell...

3 ●“Dai Chushingura: The Story of Asano Takumi no Kami’s Seppuku” by Ishikatsu Yamatoya

The young lord Asano Naganori (Takumi no Kami) is ordered by the Edo shogunate to serve as a host to welcome the imperial envoys from the imperial court, who will come in return for the new year’s greetings.

Takumi no Kami begs Kira Yoshinaka (Kouzuke no suke) to teach him the manners and etiquette of a host, but Kira Kouzuke no suke only toys with him with malicious acts and behavior, which deranges Takumi no Kami’s mind so severely that it drives him to attack and wound Kira with a katana in the pine hallway of Edo Castle.

This was a tragedy that occurred because Takumi no Kami’s respect and consideration for his elders were shattered.

4 ● “Kizu no Kansuke” by Katsuharu Hisanoya

His real name was Kansuke Nakamura and he was born in 1586 in Sagami (Kanagawa Prefecture). He devoted himself to seawall construction and the development of new fields. After being exiled to an island for three years, he goes to visit his father’s grave. There, he finds money, a certificate and a registered seal wrapped in a furoshiki (a Japanese wrapping cloth) and decides to return those items to their rightful owner, Tatsugoro Yodoya in Kitahama. Overhearing the conversation between Kansuke and her father, the only daughter of the wealthy merchant Yodoya family, Okoma, develops feelings for Kansuke. This is the story of how Kansuke and Okoma first met, and fell in love.

②14:50 – 16:30

5 ● From “100 best scenes from my hometown, Yao” Yao Children’s Kawachi Ondo Ambassadors

6 ● “The Story of Sankichi Sakata: Koharu Love Story” by Hitomi Nishi

This is the story of Sankichi Sakata, a shogi player who was active from the Meiji era to the early Showa era, and his wife Koharu, whom he caused undue hardship, and their child. Though living in poverty, to ensure that Sankichi would be able to play his beloved shogi, even if it meant even greater hardship, Koharu continued to support him and told him, “If you are a real man, you should bet your fortune on the shogi pieces.”

This performance includes a verse from Koharu Love Story, an original song, and it depicts the events up to the match between Sankichi Sakata and Kinjiro Sekine at Nanzen-ji Temple in Kyoto.

7 ● “The Yaogi Tree which was made into a Koto” by Suzuka Narutoya (second person: Suzume Narutoya)

A long long time ago, in Kawachi no Sato, Yao, there was a big camphor tree known as the Yaogi tree.

The little girl who lived by the Yaogi tree loved that tree so much that she would talk to it every day.

Praised for being such a large and thick tree, the Yaogi tree grew proud, but it was cut down and made into a big boat.

One day, a violent storm hit and the Yaogi tree which had been made into a big boat got smashed into pieces and burned.

Concerned that the whole Yaogi tree had been burned to ashes, the little girl went to look for its remains. She was able to find a piece of the Yaogi tree the size of one tatami mat. When she put red silk strings on the remains of the Yaogi tree, it produced the most beautiful sound...

8 ● “Kira no Nikichi” by Hajime Miyoshiya

Kanbe no Nagakichi, Nikichi’s sworn brother, came crying to Nikichi as Ano no Tokujiro took away Nikichi’s territory, Mt. Kojin. Tokujiro was the father of Nikichi’s wife, Okiku.

Nikichi divorced Okiku to take moral responsibility and tried to negotiate with Tokujiro. No agreement was reached, and a duel was to take place on Mt. Kojin.

Nikichi won with the help of 28 members of Shimizu Jirocho’s family, but Nikichi was shot by Ano’s cowardly gunman. ...

This is a story of a man who kept his chivalrous spirit.

~Large-group dancing—Let’s all dance together on stage~