

## **National Culture Festival and National Arts and Culture Festival 2020 in Miyazaki**

The National Culture Festival and the National Arts and Culture Festival (The *kokubunsai*, or Culture Festival for short), will be held over the 107 days between July 3<sup>rd</sup> and October 17<sup>th</sup>. The idea of the festival is to introduce the traditional cultures of each local area in Japan, and create an opportunity for cultural exchange. It was originally scheduled to be held in 2020, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it was postponed to this year. In this month's *Living In Miyazaki*, we'd like to introduce a few of the many events and performances on the festival program:



### **• Kagura Festival**

Kagura is a traditional ritual dance, originally performed to give thanks for good harvests, hunting and fishing, as well as to seek protection from natural disasters and bad luck. There are over 200 styles of kagura that have been passed down through the generations in Miyazaki alone, making it one of Japan's key regions for the protection of Kagura.

Held on: Saturday, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 13:00-18:00

Venue: Concert Hall, Medikit Arts Center, Miyazaki City

### **• Taiko Drumming**

Besides performances from traditional and modern Taiko groups that are popular in Miyazaki and all over the country, there will also be an opportunity to try playing a 1m taiko drum.



Held on: Sunday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 09:30, 10:30, 17:30

Venue: Large Hall, Miyazaki Municipal Culture Hall (*Miyazaki Shimin Bunka Hōru*), Miyazaki City

### **• Sword Exhibition by Master Swordsmith Kunimasa Matsuba**

This event will feature an exhibition of swords forged by Miyazaki native and master swordsmith Kunimasa Matsuba, whose work is held in high regard all over the world, as well as demonstrations of martial arts and the swords' cutting ability.



Held on: Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, September 5<sup>th</sup> (Exact times of demonstrations will vary)

Venues: Hyuga Cultural Hall (*Hyūga shimin bunka kōryū sentā*), Hyuga Community Center (*Hyūgashi chūō kominkan*)

Besides these, there are over 100 other events, performances and exhibitions scheduled over the festival period – for more information, please see the National Cultural Festival website: <https://www.pref.miyazaki.lg.jp/miyazaki2020/index.html>

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions regarding this column, please contact the Miyazaki International Foundation (MIF):

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Also, if you ever have any questions or concerns about daily life in Miyazaki, please feel free to get in touch with the Miyazaki Support Center for Foreign Residents:

TEL : 0985-41-5901 FAX : 0985-41-5902 Email [support@mif.or.jp](mailto:support@mif.or.jp)