

About Tennyo-za

Tennyo-za is located at Kumano city in the Mie prefecture of Japan.

Since the time I used to live in Kyoto, I dreamed of our music hall as a playhouse with a panoramic view of the ocean.

Although we did not have a lot of financial funding, I strongly believed that my dream music hall would be found and built.

We had been searching for the ideal place to build Tennyo-za while we were performing the event, “the concert to touch one million hearts“ all over the country and abroad as musicians.

In 2000, after traveling around the Kii peninsula, we came to Kumano city and had a spiritual experience that confirmed that this was OUR place. We felt as though it was the home we had been looking for over so many years.

Although this place is three hours from the highway, where the closest convenience store is twelve kilometers away, and sparsely populated, it is a beautiful place. This place is a utopian place with stretches of beautiful ocean, stars in the heavens, the Milky Way, and kindhearted people,

We moved to Kumano city from Kyoto three months after we decided to relocate. We started to convert the TOYOTA auto parts factory which is about 900 **tatami mats big** .

At first, there were only the two of us and a carpenter working, but soon after strangers came to help us on the weekends. We finally finished the renovation after three months with the help of over one hundred volunteers.

There is a 100 **tatami mat size (English conversion in square footage ?)** music hall, a pine picture scene that we received miraculously, and a café that seats thirty with a panoramic view of the Pacific Ocean

This music hall was opened on April 29th in 2001. Although the population of the town was only 260 at the time, 400 people had

rushed over for the opening of Tennyo-za. The local people made 3000 rice cakes to celebrate this occasion.

This town used to be a depressing town with its sparse and aging population. However, since the arrival of Tenyo-za there have been many visitors and the town is starting to revitalize.

Six years ago we launched the village kabuki play. The people who were new to acting at the time are at a professional-level now.

The lion dance used to be performed 80 years ago in this village but it had died out. We revived the lion dance as well. I learned the lion dance and Takamitsu Yanaka learned to play the flute.

We do like the convenience a life in the city brings. However, we cannot be creative as it is difficult to draw inspiration as musicians in a “convenient” place.

We created many songs since we moved here.

The original and the improvised ones are the songs that are most important to me.

We have performed a variety of musical performances such as, jazz, matouqin, flute, and opera.

My dream is to start a Tennyo-za art festival and interact with many artists not only through music but through various forms of art.

Kumano kodo, a world heritage site is also near by.

Please come visit Kumano.

You can feel your soul come home.

Welcome home to Kumano, the spiritual hometown....