

Tahiti Heiva in Japan

2025 Event Report

Tahiti Heiva in Japan, Japan's very first full-fledged Tahitian event, began in 2005. This year once more, this passion-filled competition was held in the two cities of Tokyo and Osaka. A grand finale was held for the selection of the grand prize winners of the solo competition and the championship. The audience grew wild taking in first-hand the dynamic competition accompanied by the powerful drum performances. We will look back at the year 2025, beginning with the Tokyo and Osaka competitions, and including our workshops and the release of an album of original drum beat.



HEIVA I TOKYO

Event Outline

Date/Time	10/18/2025 (Sat) 10:00 doors opened, 10:30 performances began, 20:30 performances ended
Venue	Tachikawa Stage Garden
Entrance Fee	Reserved seating ¥8,800 (¥9,600 at the door)
Events	'Ori Tahiti Japan Championship Solo Competition Group Competition Group Exhibition Garden Stage Mini Exhibition

Number of Spectators 1,500

Sponsored by  Air Tahiti Nui (airtahiti.com)
 Tahiti Tourisme (tahiti-tourisme.com)
and five others

Under the Auspices of  **Hula & Tahiti** (hula-tahiti.com)

Judges



Manouche Lehartel



Heremoana
Maamaatuaiahutapu



Karl Brilliant

Number of Participants 500

'Ori Tahiti Japan Championship: 80
Solo Competition: 180 (Finalists)
Group Competition: 3 groups
Group Exhibition: 1 group
Garden Stage Mini Exhibition: 4 groups



Highlights

1. Revival of the Rahiri Ceremony

After a long six year's hiatus, in conjunction with HEIVA I TOKYO's 21st anniversary, we reached back to years past and revived our presentation of the Rahiri Ceremony. This traditional ceremony where leaves are presented by the dancers and are in turn accepted by the judges, represents a promise between the two parties. The dancers promise to show respect and to accept the decision of the judges. The judges in turn promise to give their respect as well and to be impartial in their judging. It was a very solemn and beautiful ceremony indeed.



2. Solo Competition and 'Ori Tahiti Japan Championship of Select Dancers



A solo competition boasting Japan's largest number of participants as well as Japan's most illustrious 'Ori Tahiti Japan Championship whose participation is limited to dancers who took first- to third-place in the last two years. Each age group competed, and strict judging was done by a panel invited from Tahiti.



3. A Grand Finale Deciding the Grand Prize Winners!

A grand finale was held for the selection of the grand prize winners of the solo competition and the championship. The battles for the top were heated displays by the grand finalists, causing the heat of the entire arena to immediately shoot up as well! The solo competition grand prize went to Saori Bando and Soma Terauchi for the second time in two years. The championship grand prize went to Nagisa Takizawa for the third time in three years!

The three grand prize winners were awarded round trip plane tickets to Tahiti.



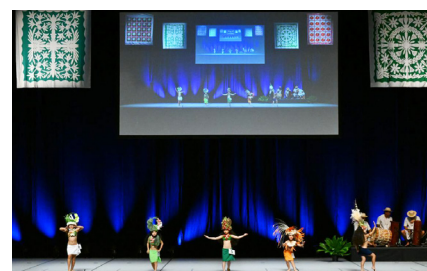
4. Group Competition Divided into Large and Small Group Categories

This year, there were 4 groups—one large groups of 21 members or more and two small groups of 20 or less members. The groups were separated into the large or small category where they competed. To Tavake Rereata went the prize for best performance.



5. 300-inch monitor for ease of viewing.

With a 300-inch monitor placed before the stage, the dancers' expressions and movements were clearly seen from each and every seat in the audience.




6. Additional Features

During the event, there was not only enjoyment of the dancing on the main stage, but there were also exhibitions taking place on the garden stage, stencil craft workshops, as well as shopping at the various booths.



HEIVA I WEST

Event Outline

Date/Time	4/12/2025 (Sat) 12:00 doors opened 12:30 performances began 18:30 performances ended
Venue	Namikiri Hall
Entrance Fee	Reserved seats ¥7,700 (¥8,500 at the door)
Events	Solo Competition Group Competition Group Exhibition
Number of Spectators	600
Under the Auspices of	 Hula & Tahiti Hula & Tahiti (hula-tahiti.com)
Judges (online from Tahiti)	Manouche Lehartel Tumata Robinson
Number of Participants	200 (Solo Competition: 150 Group Competition: 2 groups Group Exhibition: 1 group)




Manouche Lehartel



Tumata Robinson

HEIVA SAKURA

Event Outline

Date/Time	8/8/2025 (Fri) 14:00 doors opened 14:30 performances began 18:30 performances ended
Venue	Sakura Hall, Shibuya Cultural Center Owada
Entrance Fee	Reserved seats ¥4,400 (¥4,900 at the door)
Events	Solo Competition
Number of Spectators	300
Under the Auspices of	 Hula & Tahiti Hula & Tahiti (hula-tahiti.com)
Judges (online from Tahiti)	Manouche Lehartel Lesly Poerava Kia
Number of Participants	80 (Solo Competition: 80)



Manouche Lehartel



Lesly Poerava Kia

Workshops

We invited artists from Tahiti to come to Japan and put on dance workshops.

From 2012 to 2024:

Moeata, Taiana, Teruria, Hinavai,
Makau, Tahia, Tuarii, Tommy, Lesly

2025:

Tahia Cambet



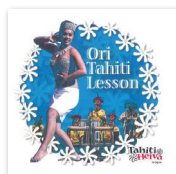
Tahia Cambet

Production of Original CDs

Continuing our efforts to introduce the people of Japan to Tahitian music, we are assisting in the production of CDs of original instrumental music, as well as CDs of vocal music by various artists.

Ori Tahiti Lesson

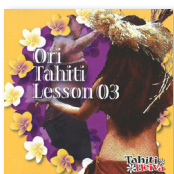
A collection of short selections of drumming for Tahitian dance practice



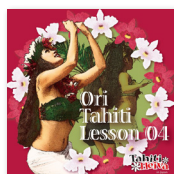
Ori Tahiti Lesson



Ori Tahiti Lesson 02



Ori Tahiti Lesson 03



Ori Tahiti Lesson 04



Ori Tahiti Lesson 05



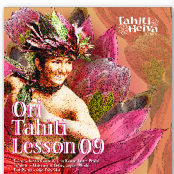
Ori Tahiti Lesson 06



Ori Tahiti Lesson 07



Ori Tahiti Lesson 08



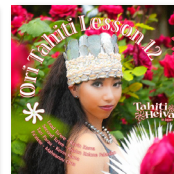
Ori Tahiti Lesson 09



Ori Tahiti Lesson 10



Ori Tahiti Lesson 11



Ori Tahiti Lesson 12

Artist Series

Albums of live performances in Japan by Tahitian artists and CDs made in cooperation with Tahitian artists.



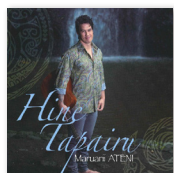
Sabrina & Grace Live in Tokyo



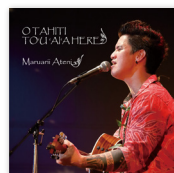
TEREHE (Sabrina)



To'u Fenua (Sabrina)



Hine Tapairu
(Maruarii ATENI)



O TAHITI TO 'U 'AI 'A HERE
(Maruarii ATENI)

Tahitian Drum Lesson Series

Instructive CDs for Tahitian drum practice (recordings done locally by artists invited from Tahiti).



Tahitian Drum Lesson vol. 1



Tahitian Drum Lesson vol. 2



TAHITI HEIVA V.A.

A compilation album of traditional Tahitian music.

Tahiti Heiva in Japan Series

Original albums of recordings done by artists invited over from Tahiti.



Tahiti Heiva in Japan vol. 1



FARA E
(Tahiti Heiva in Japan vol. 2)



TE REO
(Tahiti Heiva in Japan vol. 3)

Tahiti Heiva in Japan

3-9-15 Ebisu, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, 150-0013, Japan Tel: 81.3.6277.1746 Fax: 81.3.6277.4458 <https://tahiti-heiva.com>