



世界の音色が、阿寒にあつまる。

# INTERNATIONAL JEW'S HARP CONGRESS/ FESTIVAL

in Akanko Ainu Kotan,  
Hokkaido

2025.

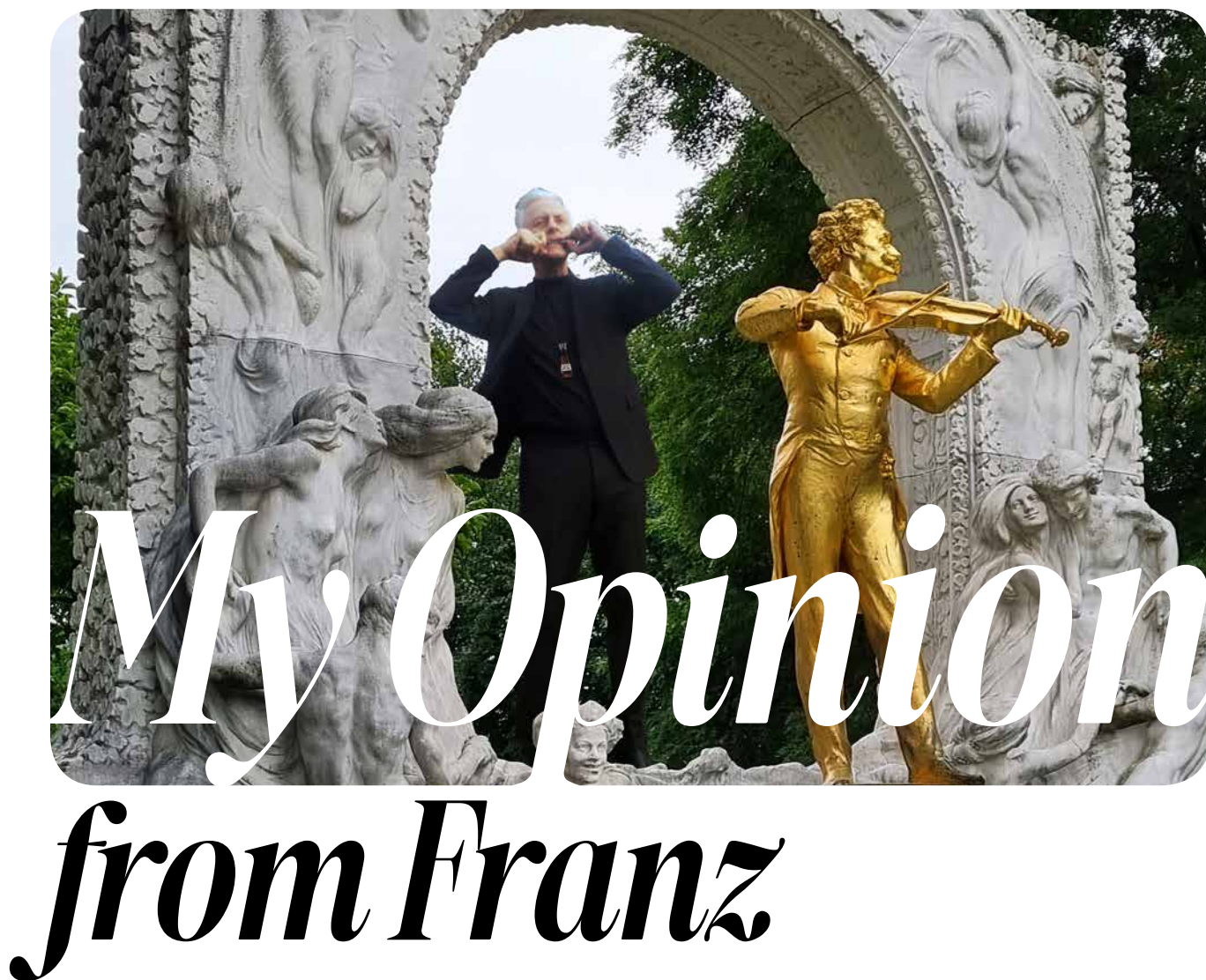
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第10回 国際口琴大会  
in 阿寒湖アイヌコタン



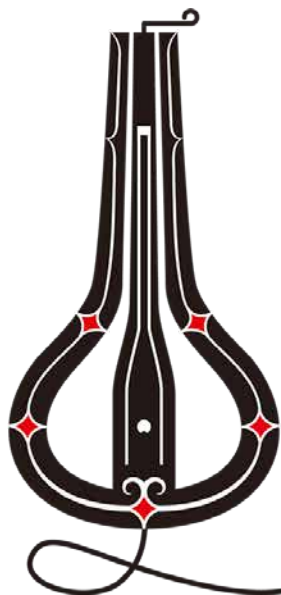


**T**he 10th International Jew's Harp Congress Festival (IJHC/F) will take place from October 24-26, 2025 at the Ainu community at Lake Akan on Hokkaido/Japan! The focus is on traditional ethnic jaw harp traditions, but modern virtuosos will also be heard. One goal was for the festival to take place in Asia again after two European venues (Taucha/Leipzig and Berlin). Financing of the 10th IJHC/F has been secured only on April 8, immediately afterwards the 50 selected musicians were contacted and planning for the conference and festival program started. The IJHC/F will be announced in Japan on July 9. This is quite late for the international community. We therefore will distribute promotional material received from the organizers in Japan via social media, as soon as we receive it. We know that there are many people from the global jaw harp-community who would like to come to this special event. We therefore have asked the organizers to provide a package, which includes national transport from Tokyo to Hokkaido, food and accommodation at the festival-site from 23-27 October. The package will cost about Euro 800 per person.

It seems that with Mongolia and Taiwan there are two contenders for the 11th Jew's Harp Congress-Festival. Additionally, Toggenburg in Switzerland has also expressed interest. Thus, the future of the IJHC/F is kind of secured.

At the meetings of the Society during our stay in Japan, I would like to discuss with the members of the IJHS the future of the Society. This includes the amount of board members, executive board, president, publications, presence on social media, updating the website, creating an image and sound archive, and much more. Note: if you want to have a say, you must be a paying member! So, to be on the safe side, pay the fee for 2025 and your voice will count.

It always was and still is an honor for me to have a responsible role in determining the fate of the International Jew's Harp Society. In these 28 years, the jaw harp has experienced a strong global distribution. My main aim as President -beyond keeping the IJHS together- was to connect East and West, to support free eclectic improvisation as well as



# 10<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL JEW'S HARP CONGRESS/FESTIVAL in Akanko Ainu Kotan, Hokkaido

traditional ethnic approaches, modern experiments and jaw harp in rock and heavy metal music as well as folk music; to transcend liberal and illiberal systems with the help of the jaw harp.

Of course, there are many jaw harp players who have never heard of the International Jew's Harp Society, because you can enjoy jaw harp playing without this organization. However, we claim to be THE authority in jaw harp issues. Twice a year, we produce the Newsletter BOING with news from the jaw harp world. Aron Szilagyi is responsible for the Newsletter. Then, every 1-2 years, we produce the Journal with scientific articles on jaw harp topics. Harm Linsen and Alessandro Szolt are responsible for this. And last but not least, we are the initiators and co-organizers of the International Jew's Harp Congress-Festivals, which are to take place every 3-7 years; the president is primarily responsible for this, and he also appoints the program committee, which proposes to the Festival-organizer the musicians and speakers to be invited. To coordinate all these activities by the voluntary officers of the International Jew's Harp Society, we hold a monthly Jour Fixe at which the Newsletter, the Journal and Festival-Congress are discussed.

I am very much looking forward to meeting and hearing you in Japan!

Franz Kumpl

# 10TH IJHC/F

## A LONG-AWAITED EVENT

By Goukon Fukiko  
Translated by Tadagawa Leo

This October, the 10th International Jew's Harp Congress / Festival will take place in the heart of Akanko Ainu Kotan, Hokkaido, Japan.

Artists, makers, and scholars from around the world will gather to celebrate this ancient instrument in the land of its Ainu heritage.

Set against the backdrop of autumnal Lake Akan, the event promises three vibrant days of music, culture, and deep connection.



**W**e, the organizing committee, launch a project this autumn in Akanko Ainu Kotan, Hokkaido, Japan. The tenth edition of the International Jew's Harp Congress / Festival will take place from October 24-26 at Akanko Ainu Kotan (literally means Lake Akan Ainu Village) and surrounding area. It will host top jew's harp players, makers and researchers from different parts of the world, with the main stage "Ikor" the Ainu theatre, special outdoor stage in the middle of the Ainu Village, and other venues for jam sessions, workshops, presentations and meetings for 3 days. On the arrival day, 23rd, in the evening, we will welcome the guests with a ceremony and traditional dance of the Ainu, the indigenous people of Hokkaido, northernmost island of Japan. Details about the 10th International Congress-Festival will be published on FB: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61577192101625> and on the website: <https://www.akanainu.jp/en/>. Scan QR codes below.



Ainu Traditional Dance at Theatre "Ikor" (photo by Tadagawa Leo)



It is no exaggeration to say that the jew's harp mukuri is the only musical instrument used by the Ainu people of Hokkaido. It was my senior Teshi Shigiko, who passed away last year April, who taught me that this instrument mukuri is "connected to the world." She was one of the first Ainu mukuri players to participate in the 2nd International Jew's Harp Congress / Festival held in the Sakha Republic in 1991, and has since continued to interact with jew's harp players from Sakha and other countries, becoming a leading figure in spreading connections between the Ainu people and the world through the jew's harp. More than 30 years have passed since then, and a group of friends who sympathized with the disciples' aspirations, the Akan Jew's Harp Club, took the lead and made it possible to hold the 10th anniversary edition of the International Jew's Harp Congress / Festival at Akanko Ainu Kotan.







Akan Jew's Harp Club. Goukon Fukiko (front-left), late Teshi Shigiko (back-right) Photo courtesy of Akan Jew's Harp Club

We are so thrilled and grateful to be able to meet this day, with friends from all over the world coming together with the Jew's Harps in their hands, a tiny, but at the same time profound instrument that connects people so deeply.

The Akanko Ainu Kotan is located in the Akanko Onsen (Hot Spring of Lake Akan) area on the shores of Lake Akan, a lake located inland in the northern part of Kushiro City in eastern Hokkaido. The entire area is included in Akan-Mashu National Park, and is a tourist destination representative of the naturally rich eastern Hokkaido. The moss ball marimo, a special natural monument, grows nowhere else in the world but in Lake Akan, so it is recommended that you take a sightseeing boat ride there in your spare time. Akanko Onsen is a small town at the foot of two mountains that are said to be a married couple. It is lined with many hotels and folk craft shops and is bustling with tourists.

The main venue for our festival, Akanko Ainu Kotan, is an area where we the Ainu people live, run by folk craft shops and restaurants, and usually hosts daily performances of traditional Ainu dance at the theatre "Ikor".

The event will be held at the end of October, when autumn is in full swing. There are still some red leaves remaining, but the temperature difference is very

drastic, so we recommend wearing warm clothes. We look forward to meeting and reuniting with you all at Akanko Ainu Kotan in Hokkaido as autumn deepens, and we wholeheartedly welcome you!!!

The 10th International Jew's Harp Congress / Festival will be hosted by Kushiro City. Its Organizing Committee is consisted of Akan Jew's Harp Club, Japan Jew's Harp Association, Akan Ainu Association, Akan Ainu Culture Preservation Society, Akan Ainu Craft Association, Akan Ainu Consulting, in cooperation with the International Jew's Harp Society. Entrusted operation of the event will be taken by DENTSU HOKKAIDO INC. with Yoshimizu Kota as the project leader. ■



# BOING

Newsletter of the International Jew's Harp Society

ISSN 3042-6456

ISSUE 004

1-2025



Sundanese  
Jaw Harp Metalheads



# EDITORIAL



**Áron Szilágyi**  
Editor in Chief

In this edition, we dive deep into the many lives of the Jew's harp—across time, continents, and cultures. From an extraordinary archaeological find in Amsterdam revealing ancient echoes of this instrument, to the blazing spirit of Sudanese metal musicians reawakening its pulse in a modern soundscape, we witness how tradition and innovation walk hand in hand.

We're thrilled to bring you an exclusive preview of the 10th International Jew's Harp Festival and Congress in Hokkaido, Japan—an event that promises to gather the world's players, makers, and lovers of this magical instrument in a celebration of unity and resonance.

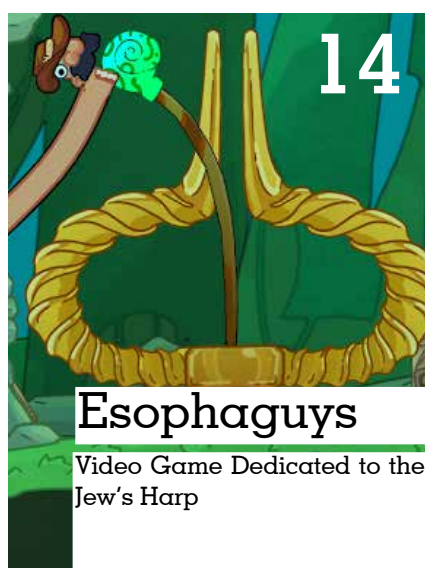
You'll also discover the surprising backstory behind the most-heard jaw harp groove, hidden in a Red Hot Chili Peppers classic, a review of a fantastic new album, and even a video game that puts the Jew's harp front and center.

This issue celebrates the instrument's growing global voice and the boundless creativity it inspires.



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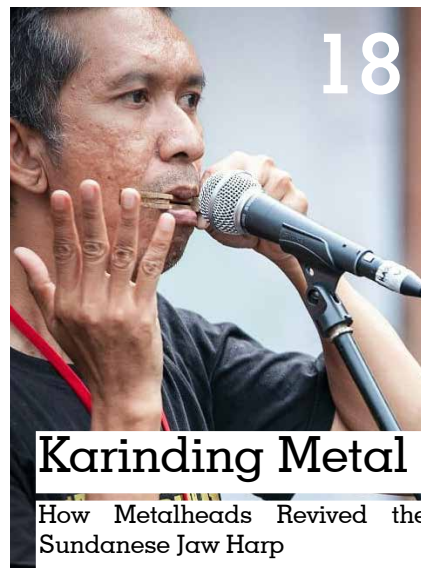
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# Impressum

**BOING**

Newsletter of the International Jew's Harp Society

BOING is published twice a year

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**Published by:**

International Jew's Harp Society  
Grand-Rue 55, 2035 Corcelles,  
Neuchâtel, Switzerland

<https://jewsharpsociety.org/>

Become a member! See details on the back cover!

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ISSN 3042-6456 (Print)

ISSN 3042-6464 (Online)

07th July 2025





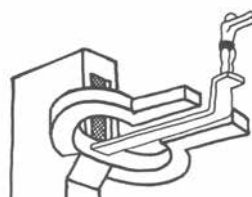
# The International Jew's Harp Society (IJHS)

The International Jew's Harp Society (IJHS) is a non-profit organisation established at the 3rd International Jew's Harp Festival and Congress in 1998 in Molln/Austria, with the aim of bringing together as many of the enthusiasts for the instrument as possible.

The International Jew's Harp Society is a globally acknowledged authority that reflects and represents the ancient and diverse traditions, the colourfulness and the future of the jew's harp. Our Society is a global organisation that functions as an umbrella for players, researchers, makers, enthusiasts, and dedicated festivals.

Not only does the IJHS organise international congresses that involve players from around the globe, but also publish an increasingly acknowledged Journal, a blog and an online newsletter.

Visit our website [jewsharpsociety.org](https://jewsharpsociety.org) and follow us on our [Facebook page](#) !



## Get involved and join the IJHS

### IJHS Membership

Only \$30 or 30€ to join (Annual fee)

Register and join us now through  
this QR-Code !



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ISSN 3042-6456



773042 645607