



Ei Gokoriyama!

News and Information about Koriyama City in English

GunSui Spring Concert ft. Akira Miyagawa

As part of the 'Citizen's Concert Hall'-concerts in Koriyama, **GunSui** (the Koriyama Wind Instrument Orchestra) is organizing its annual **spring concert** on the **22nd of April**. For this occasion, they are inviting **Akira Miyagawa** as a special guest conductor. Akira Miyagawa is a well-known Japanese pianist, conductor and musical director, who will join GunSui for the second year in a row. He worked with various major orchestras around the world and was a regular on the musical education program 'Quintet' on NHK. Second guest conductor Morihiro Sato will open the concert with renditions of works by Rachmaninov and Masamachi Amano. Miyagawa's second act will revolve around his own work and will surely prove engaging, amusing and even educational.



Time: April 22nd - 14:00
Venue: Kenshin Cultural Center
Tickets: ¥1000 (general audience), ¥500 (middle-/high school students), free for elementary school children. Tickets available at the Kenshin Cultural Center, Noa Instruments, Jujiya, Yamaha Music Retailing and Usui Dept. Store.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Fukushima Ramen Show 2018

From **April 29th to May 6th**, Kaiseizan Park is the place to be for ramen-lovers, during the annual **Fukushima Ramen Show**. From Tokyo to Osaka and even from Kanazawa (Ishikawa Pref.) to Akashi (Hyogo Pref.), ramen shops from all over the country set up camp in the park to deliver their special take on this wildly popular Japanese dish.

Admission to the festival is **FREE**, and every bowl of ramen has the same price: **¥780** (toppings may cost extra). The stalls are open from **10:00 to 20:00** (closing at 17:00 on the 6th of May). Pre-sale tickets for ramen are available at all 7-Eleven's, Lawson's and TicketPia (toppings to be paid separately at the various stalls). Come down and get yourself some ramen!



Come support the Koriyama City Marathon!

The runners could sure use you support! Come watch the Koriyama City Marathon on the **29th of April!** The start is at the **HRS Kaiseizan Athletics Stadium** from **9:00** (opening ceremony at 8:00). Visit koriyama-city-marathon.jp (JP) for more info.



Event Calendar

April

- 15 **Foresta Concert in Koriyama**
(Kenshin Cultural Center)
- 22 **GunSui (Koriyama Wind Instrument Orchestra) Spring Concert ft. Akira Miyagawa**
(Kenshin Cultural Center)
- 22 **Ryu Festival Fukushima – D-1X (Soft Darts Pro Tournament)**
(Big Palette Fukushima)
- 29 **Koriyama City Marathon**
(Start at HRS Kaiseizan Athletics Stadium)
- 29 **Citizens' Concert Hall: Risaia Madre Dio Brass (5th annual concert)**
(Kenshin Cultural Center)

May

- 11 – 14 **Star Wars Exhibit**
(Big Palette Fukushima)
- 12 **1st Fukushima Prefecture Skating Rink Curling Championship** (Bandai-Atami Ice Arena)
- 12 **Ingrid Fuzjko Hemming - Piano Solo Concert**
(Kenshin Cultural Center)
- 13 **Amadeus Chamber Orchestra – 31st Concert**
(Kenshin Cultural Center)
- 13 **Naoto Inti Raymi Concert 2018**
(Kenshin Cultural Center)
- 26 **Kazuto Miura – Live 2018**
(Kenshin Cultural Center)
- 26 **'Encore!' Kazumasa Oda Tour 2018**
(Big Palette Fukushima)

Changes to facility-names starting April 2018

Starting the new fiscal year on April 1st (Heisei 30) three city facilities changed their names to include their main sponsors.



New name: **Kenshin Cultural Center**
 Old name: Koriyama City Cultural Center
 Sponsor: Fukushima Kenshin Bank



New name: **Horaiya Koriyama Gymnasium**
 Old name: Koriyama Sogo Gymnasium
 Sponsor: Horaiya-honten Co., Ltd.



New name: **HRS Kaiseizan Athletics Stadium**
 Old name: Kaiseizan Athletics Stadium
 Sponsor: Hirose Electric Co., Ltd. Koriyama

Closing Ceremony for Schools in Nishita-machi

The opening of the new **Nishita Gakuen** (the first combined Elementary- and Junior High School in Fukushima Prefecture) in Nishita-machi on the east side of Koriyama as of this April, also means the closure of a number of smaller countryside schools in the area. For the kids of the **Ota-, Takano-, Sanchome-, Negiya-** and **Oniuta** elementary schools, the graduation ceremony on the **23rd of March** was therefore also the school's closing ceremony.

Ota Elementary School was the smallest school in Koriyama with a total of only 6 pupils last school year. With a 144 years' worth of history, the closing ceremony was certainly bittersweet, but the kids looked back on a happy time at the school. During the ceremony the kids said words of thanks and sang the school anthem together. They are looking forward to their time at the new school and a bright future.



Tokyo 2020 Livesite 2018 in Koriyama

The 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games are drawing closer. A live promotion event was held at Koriyama Station's West Exit Square on the **18th of February**, featuring live footage of the competitions at the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics, a chance to try out wheelchair-sports using virtual reality, and many more activities.

There was also a stage show, featuring a talk show, dance performances and live music. The event drew many visitors and was a great way to warm up the crowds for the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2020 during the still cold winter season. With only 2 more years to go, you can expect more Olympics-related events in the near future.



Lecture by Frontier Ambassador Michihiko Yanai

In order to promote Koriyama in- and outside of Japan, Koriyama City appointed a number of outstanding (former-) residents as special *Frontier Ambassadors*. They include professional musicians, athletes, academics and entrepreneurs among others.

One such ambassador is singer-/songwriter and creative director **Michihiko Yanai**. After the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake, he also became known for his tribute song to his home: "I love you & I need you Fukushima".

On the **17th of March**, Michihiko Yanai gave a special lecture at Koriyama City Hall about his experience and his vision for Koriyama City, mixing his talk with his own songs and videos. The lecture was attended by many people who were very moved by Yanai's words, some even to tears. Koriyama treasures its Frontier Ambassadors and hopes they will keep promoting their hometown in the future.



Do you know Koriyama?

Every city and prefecture, and even many companies and other organizations have their own mascot. Koriyama City is no exception, with its own character: **Gakuto-Kun**. His name comes from *Gakuto*, which means Music City. This is why his hat is shaped like a music note. His shirt has a picture of a rice stalk, symbolizing one of Koriyama's major products: Asaka Mai (rice).

However, how many mascots do you know which have their very own band? Gakuto-Kun does! Together with his little sister Onpu-chan, Gakuto-kun is the star of the **Gakuto-Kun Band**. Gakuto-Kun plays bass and Onpu-chan is on keyboards. Super Kantaro, Koriyama's environmental affairs character is on drums. Amazingly, the band performs 100% live. Main feature is Gakuto-Kun's own theme-song: **'Habatake! Gakuto-Kun'** the official music video for which can be found on [YouTube](#) on Koriyama's official channel! Also, follow Gakuto-Kun on Twitter ([@gakuto_koriyama](#)) to never miss a show!



For more information, questions or tips, contact:

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