

**Announcement**

**SAICOBAB, NIKO NIKO TAN TAN, and HUGEN to Perform at Major Music Festivals in Australia — Three Cutting Edge Acts from Japan’s Contemporary Music Scene —**

In 2026, Japan and Australia mark the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Basic Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation between Japan and Australia. To commemorate this milestone, the Japan Foundation (JF) will present three leading Japanese music acts at two major Australian festivals: RISING in Melbourne and Vivid Sydney in Sydney.

This project features Japanese artists who are gaining international attention for their genre-defying approaches and innovative forms of expression. Through live performances spanning contemporary pop, electronic music, and improvisational and experimental sounds, audiences in Australia will be able to experience firsthand the diversity and vitality of Japan’s contemporary music scene.

This collaboration came about when Hayley Percy, Head of Music at RISING, took notice of these three acts during her participation in the Japan Foundation’s Invitation Program for Professionals in Performing Arts in the previous fiscal year and extended them an offer.

By fostering direct artistic exchange through music, the initiative aims to deepen mutual understanding between Japan and Australia and to further promote cultural exchange between the two countries.



SAICOBAB



NIKO NIKO TAN TAN



HUGEN

**RISING: Day Tripper**

Date	Saturday, June 6, 2026, 12:00–20:00 (AEST)
Venue	Melbourne Town Hall, Max Watt’s (Melbourne)
Artists	SAICOBAB, NIKO NIKO TAN TAN, HUGEN, and others
Details	<a href="https://2026.rising.melbourne/program/day-tripper">https://2026.rising.melbourne/program/day-tripper</a>
Tickets	<a href="https://tickets.rising.melbourne/day-tripper">https://tickets.rising.melbourne/day-tripper</a>
Organizers	RISING, The Japan Foundation (JF)

**Press inquiries :**

Fukushima(Mr.), Kumakura (Ms.), Communication Center, The Japan Foundation  
Tel: +81-(0)3-5369-6075 / Fax: +81-(0)3-5369-6044 E-mail: [press@jpf.go.jp](mailto:press@jpf.go.jp)



### VIVID SYDNEY: Tumbalong Nights

Date	Monday, June 8, 2026, 18:00–22:00 (AEST)
Venue	Tumbalong Park (Sydney)
Artists	NIKO NIKO TAN TAN, HUGEN
Details	<a href="https://www.vividsydney.com/event/music/hugen-niko-niko-tan-tan-tumbalong-nights">https://www.vividsydney.com/event/music/hugen-niko-niko-tan-tan-tumbalong-nights</a>
Admission	Free
Organizers	VIVID SYDNEY, The Japan Foundation (JF)

#### ■ Artist Profiles

##### 【SAICOBAB】

SAICOBAB channels the vital energy of living music traditions through ecstatic performance. The quartet brings together four musicians whose understanding of ancient musical forms is matched only by their thrilling contemporary resetting of such styles. YoshimiO's experiments in this field are well documented, from OOIIO's incorporation of Javanese gamelan into their kaleidoscopic soundworld, to Boredoms' electrifying modern rituals. Multi-instrumentalist Yoshida Daikiti reveals the human hand that shapes living traditions, as much through his fluid playing as his own collection of handmade instruments, while percussionist and multi-instrumentalist Tomoyuki "Hama" Hamamoto embodies the metaphysical power of rhythm. The group initially coalesced around hyperkinetic, improvised live performances, but have since expanded into an increasingly daring series of studio albums.



##### 【NIKO NIKO TAN TAN】

An alternative dance act consisting of OCHAN (Vo, Synth & Gt), Anabebe (Dr), and Drug Store Cowboy (Creative Director / Movie / Artwork).

Their live performance, featuring VJ visuals that have driven dance floors into frenzy around the world, is highly acclaimed, creating immersive stages where music, visuals, and artwork merge seamlessly. They also perform DJ sets under the alternate style name Hohoemi Tantan, expanding their presence within the club culture.



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### 【HUGEN】

Formed in 2024.

A music project centered around TP (Vo/PC).

Rooted in electronic music, the project creates alternative sounds infused with elements of traditional and folk music. TP's lyrics are another defining feature, expressing themes of connection, love, and kindness — capturing familiar emotions and everyday scenes with an unpretentious honesty.

In just their second year, they were selected to perform at the FUJI ROCK FESTIVAL '25 "ROOKIE A GO-GO." They also co-wrote and performed the theme song for the NHK E-Tele drama Kikenakatta Ano Koto alongside Saho Terao.

Currently active in both live performances and music production.



### ■ About the Japan Foundation

The Japan Foundation (JF) is an independent administrative institution with the mission of “Cultivating friendship and ties between Japan and the world.” Its activities encompass three core areas: Arts and Cultural Exchange, Japanese-Language Education Overseas, and Japanese Studies and Global Partnerships.

In the field of performing arts, the JF presents work such as a Sankai Juku performance in Istanbul commemorating the 100th anniversary of Japan-Türkiye diplomatic relations, and provides support for international co-productions.

Selected performances are shared via the Japan Foundation YouTube channel under the banner of Stage Beyond Borders.

(For more information: <https://stagebb.jpf.go.jp/>)

Additionally, the JF invites artists, festival directors, and other performing arts professionals from ASEAN countries to Japan to foster mutual understanding with their Japanese counterparts and explore new possibilities for creative collaboration. Japanese artists are also sent abroad to exchange views with local experts and observe creative processes and performances, thereby expanding international networks and laying the groundwork for sustained exchange and cooperation.

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