

Above: Final concert by 69 trombone players

All photos by Yosuke Iwasawa, Nagoya Philharmonic Orchestra Administration Office

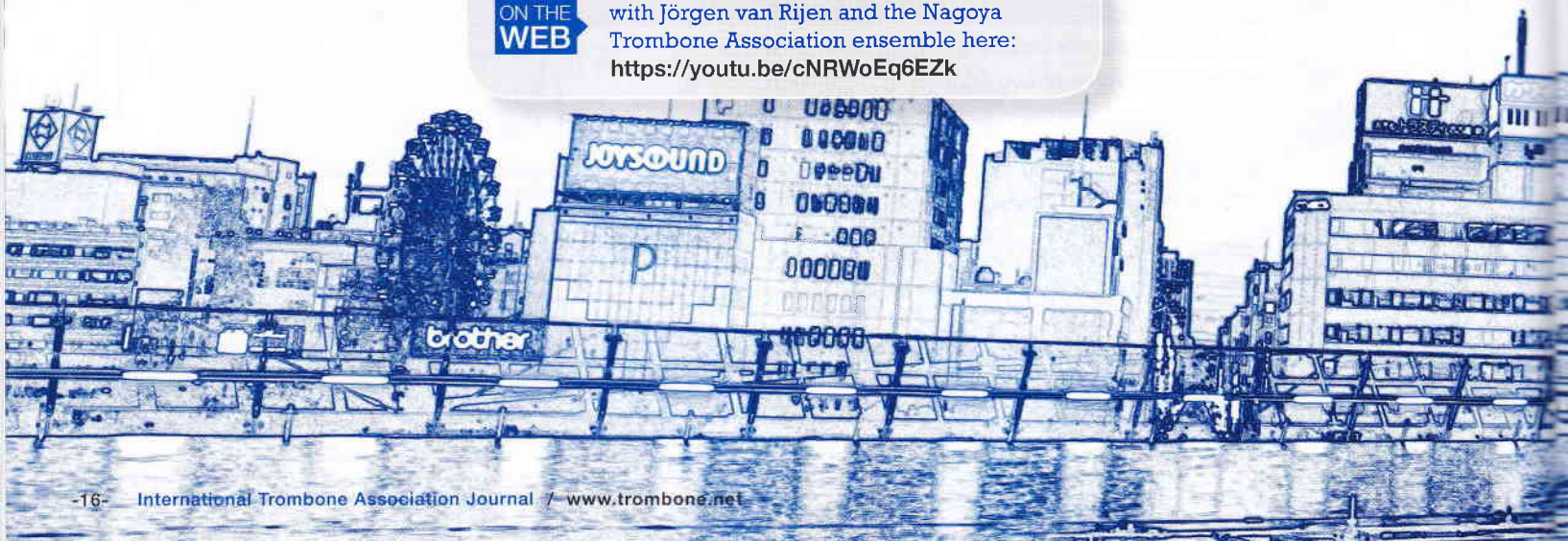
The Nagoya Trombone Association (NTA) was established by trombone players around Nagoya city, in the Tokai region, in January 2016. Nagoya is the third largest city in Japan and has three professional orchestras, three music colleges, and many amateur orchestras and wind bands. In recent years, many trombone players living in Nagoya prepared for establishing a new trombone association. There are a lot of difficulties, but they could overcome them and establish the association in Nagoya. The NTA held The First Nagoya Trombone Festival on March 26–27 as their first event. A lot of professional and amateur trombone players joined the festival. Let me introduce the part of the festival.

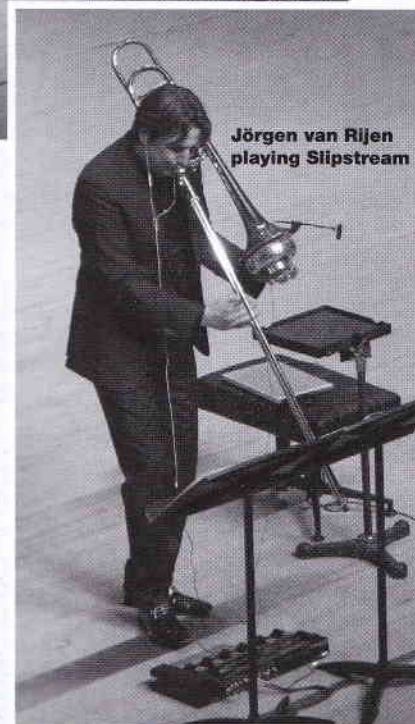
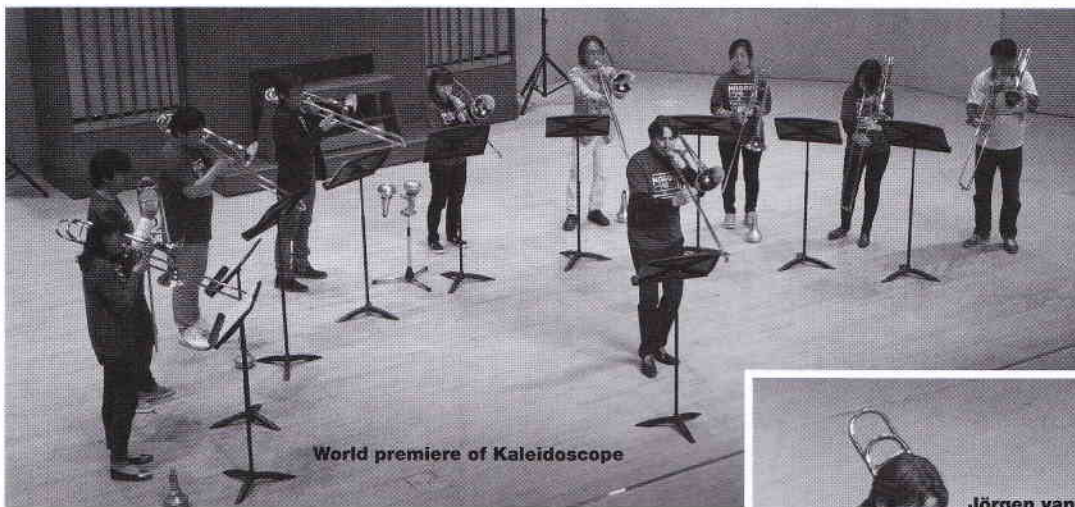
Jörgen van Rijen, principal trombone player of the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, was invited by the NTA as special guest player. His solo recital was held the second day. He played from standard pieces like Pergolesi's *Sinfonia* and Martin's *Ballad* to new pieces like Maier's *Slipstream*. In *Slipstream*, one of his specialties, he used a sound system called "Loop Station." This system repeats and amplifies his performance, not only melody and sound but also the noise made by tapping the instrument. His virtuosic technique and melody charmed all audiences.

At the end of the festival, Steven Verhelst's new piece *Kaleidoscope* for trombone ensemble was premiered. It was the first commissioned work by the NTA. Hiroshi Tanaka, chairman of the NTA and principal trombone of the Nagoya Philharmonic Orchestra—explained the reason the NTA commissioned the work from Verhelst, "We invited Mr. van Rijen and students from Otsuchi town, Iwate prefecture—which was greatly damaged by the Great East Japan Earthquake—to our festival. Many Japanese trombone players know *A Song for Japan* by Mr. Verhelst, gives us great energy. It's common knowledge that there are close friendship between Mr. van Rijen and Mr. Verhelst, then, it's quite natural that we commissioned the new work from Mr. Verhelst."

ON THE
WEB

You can see a performance of *Kaleidoscope* with Jörgen van Rijen and the Nagoya Trombone Association ensemble here:
<https://youtu.be/cNRWoEq6EZk>





Kaleidoscope was composed in three sections, fast—slow—fast, with familiar melodies. It will be the indispensable piece for trombone ensemble. According to short but productive rehearsal, van Rijen and each player made an outstanding ensemble. The premiere was a great success. After the premiere, all participants went on stage and played *A Song for Japan* and *76 Trombones* together. The festival ended with great success.

In addition, various events were held at the festival as follows;

Ensemble Experience: Trainee can play the masterpieces of the trombone quartet with professional players.

Orchestra Excerpts Lecture: Professional orchestra players perform and discuss with audience about orchestra excerpts.

All Japan Band Competition Required Pieces

Lecture: Professional players coach how to perform the difficult points for trombone on required pieces.

Festival Concert: 13 ensembles, 70 players in total, participated in this ensemble concert throughout the day.

All events were crowded with many trombone players and lovers. To the surprise and delight of the NTA leaders, applicants for membership of the NTA were higher than they expected.

The NTA will hold the first Nagoya Trombone Competition next year. The NTA is expected to increase the number of trombone players, and to more widely spread the classical music in Nagoya.

ON THE WEB

You can contact the Nagoya Trombone Association at:
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