

taiko taiko

FIRST WEEKEND WORKSHOPS

special colour edition!!

AT THE

MUGEN TAIKO DOJO



In November we welcomed the first participants for weekend workshops at the Mugen Taiko Dojo.

This was a true milestone. It has long been our dream to establish a centre for teaching Taiko, and a permanent base for the group. This goal has finally been reached, and although the building work will continue in order to further develop the facilities, the rehearsal space is now complete, and the Mugen Taiko Dojo teaching programme has begun.



The Taiko Dojo is in a rural location in the South Lanarkshire countryside, yet within easy driving distance from Glasgow (45 min) and Edinburgh (90 min).

Originally a 100 year old barn with stone walls two feet thick, it has been painstakingly and beautifully converted into a purpose-built Taiko studio - the first of its kind in Britain, and only the second in Europe. The space is 20m x 6m, with beech floor, under-floor heating, and full facilities for the disabled. The Taiko Dojo will be used for teaching weekend workshops and weekly classes, and also as a rehearsal and training space - the home of Mugenkyo.



"Dojo" literally means "the place of the way", so "Mugen Taiko Dojo" can be translated as "the place of the way of limitless Taiko drumming" (!), an apt name for the place where so much Taiko drumming will take place.

more dojo news on page 3...



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"TAIKO TAIKO" is the quarterly newsletter of Mugenkyo and the Mugen Taiko Dojo, publishing information about the group and Taiko Dojo activities, the art form of Taiko, and Taiko events in the UK.

MUGENKYO Taiko Drummers

Established in 1994, MUGENKYO is Europe's first professional Taiko drum group, performing at theatres, concert halls, festivals and events throughout Britain and Europe. Mugenkyo's aim is to develop Taiko as a European art form, through performances and joint projects and collaborations across a wide variety of artistic disciplines.

www.mugenkyo.com



The MUGEN TAIKO DOJO is the first purpose-built Taiko Centre in the UK. Located in rural Scotland, it is a place where people gather from all over Britain and Europe to learn about the art form of Taiko through residential workshops and regular classes. It is also the permanent base and training space for Mugenkyo. The Dojo's extensive outreach programme takes Taiko into schools and communities, creating a greater understanding about Taiko throughout the UK.

www.taikodojo.com

Mugenkyo

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Thank you to those of you who sent in donations towards the cost of this newsletter:

Kate & David Thomas, Phaedra, Mrs S.M Thompson, Evelyn Brookes, Sir Malcolm Guthrie, Denise Lee, Anne Stevenson, K.S. Aveling, Ms Jan John, Mr R.H. Scott-Spencer, Mr S.G. Hughs, Mr Spencer Lane, Daniel Vivian, Mr A.P. Smart, Ross Hyslop.

Please remember, it costs money to put out a newsletter. Please help us to continue, by sending donations - a book of stamps, postal orders or cheques (made payable to Mugenkyo), all gratefully accepted.

Mugenkyo's next concert tour will be in May. Until then we will be focussing our energies on the Mugen Taiko Dojo - on workshops & educational outreach -

What's been going on?

Much time has passed since our last newsletter: a summer of festivals up and down the country, and an autumn concert tour has flown by. At the Mela Festival in Glasgow, we struggled against the blowing rain to get the equipment on stage, and suffered from muddy cases for weeks afterwards. No sooner than our cases recovered, than we repeated the experience in Dundee.

Scotland wasn't made for outdoor festivals!

We had better luck with the weather at the Bridgnorth Folk Festival - a wonderful weekend of bands from around the world. Last summer we said goodbye to Katsuhiko, who has returned to Japan to resume his previous work composing music for tv and film. In October our big tour started with a concert at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the South Bank, London.

The tube strike unfortunately affected audience numbers, but those that came were very vocal and enthusiastic.

Disc-o-daikoll!

We also welcomed Jonathan on tour - in the lighting box, behind the wheel of the van and on the merchandise stall. On this tour we celebrated the 100,000 th mile in our "new" van, which nearly exactly coincided with the van's three year old birthday.

The Whitby Musicport Festival was another excellent world music event.

Bad weather thwarted us again on our trip up to Orkney - after a 4am alarm call and seven hour drive through winding roads up to the northern tip of Scotland, we were only a few miles from the

Adam fine tunes his public relations skills at the Birmingham Motor Show.



ferry port when the mobile rang to bring us the bad news that the ferry was cancelled to Orkney. We had no choice but to cancel the show and reschedule it for next year. So we were able to appreciate the beautiful countryside across the full length of Scotland twice in a day - once on the way up & once on the way down!

The autumn tour also saw return visits to the Old Laundry Theatre in Bowness on Windemere, and concluded with the Halifax Square Chapel, both favourite venues where we return to regularly. This year also they didn't disappoint - very special nights.

We were very lucky to meet with and pick up some tips from Amanojaku.



people had something to say about the weekend...

"The workshop was the best that I have ever been on."



"Brilliant weekend. Lovely Dojo. Well structured, with videos etc, just the right length of piece, disciplined but friendly tuition..."

Thank you to everyone who came to the very first weekend workshops - we couldn't have asked for a friendlier bunch of people, bubbling with enthusiasm.

Somehow Taiko attracts the nicest people!

You came from far & wide, by car, train, plane, from as far south as Sussex and as far north as Inverness.

Some of you had never touched a drum before, some of you were experienced drummers.

You were of all ages, from 18 to 80 (really)!

Our disabled facilities also had the first test, with Margaret our first wheelchair user of the Dojo space.

Thank you to all of you for making our first weekend workshops so special, and hope to see you back here for the follow-on workshops in May.

New Workshop Dates

The next introductory workshops will be held in March 2003.

Again, these workshops are suitable for beginners and will begin with the stance and "bachi" grip, and progress step-by-step through the weekend, learning a Taiko piece from the west coast of Japan.

Dates: 15/16 March
22/23 March

Price: £90 non-residential rate
(including lunch on Saturday & Sunday)

*residential packages also available
(details on request)*

**Places are limited
send now for an
information pack:**

Mugen Taiko Dojo, P.O. Box
5124, Lanark, ML11 0WA
mail@taikodojo.com

"We had a unique and exceptional experience, which had us grinning from start to finish and which will undoubtedly stay with us for a long time."



"It was fun, invigorating and most happy experience."

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Thank you to Japan 2001 for the grant to buy brand new Taiko drums for the Taiko Dojo. The drums were carefully crafted by Asano Daiko, one of the top Taiko factories in Japan, and shipped over to us in the summer.

Order form

See overleaf for goods.

	Merchandise	Quantity
Name:	CD £12	<input type="text"/>
	Tape £8	<input type="text"/>
	T-shirts £10	
	Red skinny-fit	<input type="text"/>
	Black writing - orange white	
	XL	<input type="text"/>
	Medium	<input type="text"/>
Address:	Total enclosed	£ <input type="text"/>
Postcode:		

MUGENKYO

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All prices include VAT, packaging and postage within the UK (please allow 21 days delivery). Please make cheques or postal orders payable to MUGENKYO

Mugenkyo tour dates

Mugenkyo will be touring again in May - dates will be posted on the website in February, and will be published in the next newsletter - out in April.



This is Jan. She's the new Mugenkyo administrator. As well as having 4 kids of her own, she has become proficient over the past 6 months at keeping the 4 of us in order.

HAPPY

NEW YEAR

We would all like to say thankyou to everyone who has shown us their support throughout this year, and wish you a great New Year!!



Yamato tour dates

The spectacular Yamato become resident in Britain for 6 weeks as part of their mammoth 6 month tour. If you haven't seen them before, GO! and be blown away!

Feb 18-23 & 25-01 March

	London, Peacock Theatre.	0207 863 8222
March		
03	Dartford, Orchard Theatre	0132 222 0000
05	Northampton, Deragate	0160 462 4811
06	Coventry, Warwick Arts Centre	0247 652 4524
07/08	Norwich, Theatre Royal	0160 363 0000
09	Cambridge, Corn Exchange	0122 335 7851
10	Southend, Cliffs Pavilion	0170 235 1135
12	Reading, Hexagon	0118 960 6060
14/15	Cheltenham, Everyman Theatre	0124 257 2573
16	Blackpool, Grand Theatre	0125 329 0190
17	Derby, Assembly Rooms	0133 225 5800
19	Aberdeen, Music Hall	0122 464 1122
20/21/22	Newcastle, Theatre Royal	0191 232 2061
23	Edinburgh, Festival Theatre	0131 529 6000
24	Nottingham, Playhouse	0115 941 9419
26	Salford, The Lowry	0161 876 2000
27/28	Oxford, Playhouse	0186 530 5305
30	Wycombe, The Swan	0149 451 2000



Yamato come to town



CD
Black medium/x-lrg t-shirt
Red skinny-fit t-shirt



Back

(pattern-small between shoulders)

