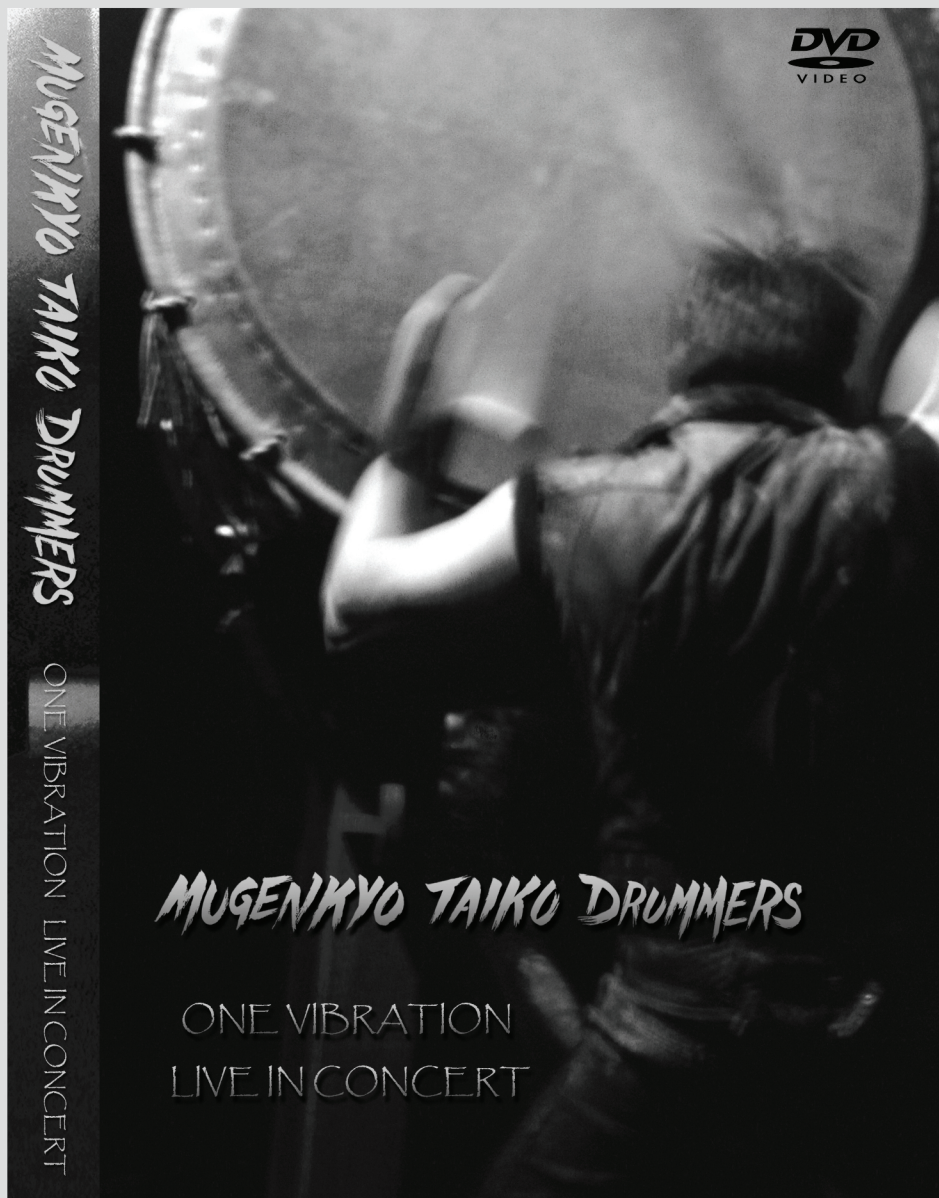


# TAIKO TAIKO

ISSUE 34

SPRING 2007

## MUGENKYO TAIKO DRUMMERS DVD



### ONE VIBRATION LIVE IN CONCERT

On our autumn tour last year, the Mugenkyo concert was filmed at Theatr Mwldan in Cardigan, to be made into the very first Mugenkyo DVD. We know that many of you have been waiting a long time for this!!

The footage was edited by Peter Smith at Coriolis Media, who's put his own distinctive trademark style into the production. He had previously made music promos for Mogwai & rapper Hydro amongst others, as well as several short films.

The DVD consists of five full-length pieces, plus clips of the rest of the show.

Full pieces: Tomoe  
Ikkyo (One Vibration)  
Fudoshin  
Todoroki  
Matsuri (Festival)

Format: 16:9 widescreen PAL  
Length: 40 min approx.

You can either purchase the DVD at one of the Mugenkyo concerts in May, or if you order your copy directly from us now, you will receive it in early May. See order form on back page.

*We hope you enjoy it!*

MUGENKYO TAIKO DRUMMERS  
WILL BE TOURING IN MAY/JUNE 2007  
SEE ENCLOSED LEAFLET FOR DATES

### INTRODUCTORY WEEKEND WORKSHOPS AT THE MUGEN TAIKO DOJO

Learn to play the taiko drums in the friendly & supportive atmosphere of the Mugen Taiko Dojo. The workshops are taught by the touring members of Mugenkyo, who have had many years of experience both of performing professionally and teaching the art-form.

Dates: 7 / 8 July  
or 4 / 5 August

Cost: £160 non-residential (contact us for residential rates)  
Contact us on MTD@taiko.co.uk or 01357 522 008

#### **Comments from previous participants:**

"Thank you all for a fantastic weekend workshop. I had an absolutely unique time and loved every minute of it... I'm still buzzin' from the whole event!!"

"I don't have a single criticism of the whole weekend. The food was great and plentiful, the accommodation was perfect, the atmosphere was great – and above all that – I felt I really gained something wonderful from the tuition you provided."



# TAIKO TAIKO

The quarterly newsletter of the Mugen Taiko Dojo & Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers, with information on forthcoming tours, news, teaching activities, projects, and concerts around the UK.



The Mugen Taiko Dojo is the first purpose-built Taiko training centre in the UK located in rural Scotland. At the Dojo, we introduce the art form of Taiko through residential workshops and regular classes.

The Dojo's extensive outreach programme brings Taiko to schools and communities throughout the UK.

## MUGENKYO TAIKO DRUMMERS

Established in 1994, Mugenkyo is Europe's first professional Taiko drum group, based at the Mugen Taiko Dojo, performing at theatres, concert halls and festivals. Mugenkyo's aim is to develop Taiko as a European art form, through performances and collaborations.

MTD

P.O. Box 5124 email: [MTD@taiko.co.uk](mailto:MTD@taiko.co.uk)  
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Thank you to those of you who sent in donations towards the cost of this newsletter:

Eleri Williams, Uan Holder, Roger Wyld Vic Attwood, R. Axon, Mr T.H. Evanson, Gerry McMurray, Mr P.N. Cunningham, Barbara Hoare, Zoe Tracey, Dick Tilley, Sylvia Thompson, Mrs K Thomas Linda Hendy, Nichola Morgan, Jean Lee, Mike Ray Mrs C.D. George, Mrs U. D'arcy-Hays, C.J. Payne Mr & Mrs Roe, B. Tredgett, Ken & Pat Haywood, Joseph Harris, Susan Rettie, The Farrimond Clan Graeme Surtrees, Brad Bradshaw, Sheila Sharman, Jeremy D'albert, Mrs D. Hastings, Jacqueline Gledhill Steve Greatorex, W.M. & D. Hilleard, Anthony Clewer Peter Crotty & Rosemary Wren, Jane Hill Mr J.E. Ball, M. Finon, Mrs M. Taylor, Mrs Bradley, Robert W. Barnes, Mr M. Wingfield, Phil Sharples Fiona Ewen, Mr & Mrs Alcock, Janet Cunningham Mrs K. Peacock, Jay Pineau, Keith Aveling Doreen McKeown, Jayne Davies, Paul Hopkinson Reggie Hounslow, Mrs S. Mackie, Harumi Williams

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

Thank you to all of you who filled in the audience survey forms on the autumn tour.

The winners of the CD draw were:

Miss P Pring (Farnham), Gill Wilson (Strathcarron) Mr K Farley (Ceredigion), Mrs TM Harley (Cwmbran) J. Christie (Halifax), J.E. Blackburn & J.C. Lomas (Porthmadog), John Robertson (Aberystwyth) Alasdair Campbell (Paisley), Colin Newman (Barking) Wendy Reat (Thrussington), W. Hubbuck (Haverhill) Mrs P Budd (Potters Bar), Gillian Burgess (Perth) Nigel Martin (Exmouth), Mrs Carol Owens (Taunton) David Robertson (East Horsley), Terry Mills (Pwllheli) Charlotte Wells (Harlech), Mr VA Hunt (Dagenham) Alan Layland (Anglesey), Suman Spriggs (Balham) Margery Kerr (Dundee), Jenny Rhodes (Edinburgh) Julia Lawrence (Knebworth), Mark Syer (Lutterworth)

Photos thanks to Lin Smith & Brian Reid

Dear Taiko Taiko readers,

Spring is upon us & the daffodils are out at the Dojo!

You may notice a slight change with the layout of "Taiko Taiko". Instead of printing the tour dates on the back page, we have enclosed a leaflet with the dates, to allow for more space within the newsletter for news & photos. As more & more of our readers are receiving the email version of this newsletter, we will be sending regular email bulletins throughout the year for more up-to-date news. If you'd prefer to receive the email newsletter, receive more regular updates & hear the news as & when it happens (& save trees), please let us know!

An update on the news since the last newsletter in August '06....

Following a strenuous 6 week autumn tour performing at 32 venues up & down the country, we spent the winter months recuperating & regenerating. There has been a lot of work going on behind the scenes, in particular with overhauling all of our publicity material, working on the website & DVD & upgrading the equipment.

The Dojo has been very active over the winter, with classes on 3 nights a week, rehearsals during the day, plus several weekend workshops. The three groups rehearsing regularly at the Dojo: Taiko Academy, Taiko Night and Project Taiko, all excelled themselves at the Big Bang annual showcase (see next page).

The new year began with the group members taking on new roles within the organisation. Congratulations to Lucy who is now a full member of the group, after a year as a trainee in 2006, and a tour player previous to that in autumn 2005. Lucy has also taken charge of the kitchen at the weekend workshops. Georgie has now taken on the mantle of main schools outreach instructor. This had previously been Teresa's responsibility, and after training Georgie for the past year in taiko teaching techniques and repertoire suitable for schools, she has successfully handed over the baton. Teresa this year has taken on the responsibility of leading the Dojo Drummers, as well as more of the growing teaching work here at the Dojo.

Taiko Academy has come on in leaps & bounds over the winter months. The Dojo Drummers repertoire has developed greatly, and we filmed a promotional video in March to help increase the bookings for Dojo Drummers at festivals and events.

This spring we have also just developed a brand new schools performance called "This is Taiko!" which Teresa, Georgie, Lucy & Taiko Academy member Peter, have been performing at schools in Central Scotland & North England. The show has been hugely popular with the students, who also have the opportunity to take part in a hands-on workshop as part of the school visit.

April is now upon us - a quiet month which we have set aside for planning for the upcoming Mugenkyo tour in May/June. We've all been hard at work getting the equipment ready for the tour, rehearsing & making preparations.

Hope to see you all at an upcoming concert!

### LIFE OF A TAIKO DRUMMER



IRONING



CARVING



COOKING



SANDING



FIXING

... AND SOMETIMES WE GET TO PERFORM...!!



# The Big Bang! 2007

The year's teaching work culminated in the lively extravaganza of 30 drummers at the annual showcase for all the groups learning at the Dojo: new recruits Project Taiko, old hands Taiko Night, and Taiko Academy.

**Taiko Academy**, as the top level training group at the Dojo, were the main performers at the concert. The players, most of whom are in their early 20's, range in experience; our newest members having trained at the Dojo for just over a year, combined with the more experienced players, some of whom have been playing taiko for over 5 years.

**Taiko Night** is our other regular group at the dojo, whose members consist of adults of all ages, invited to join us from the various workshops and courses we run at the Dojo. Some of the participants have been coming regularly to the Dojo since 2002.

**Project Taiko** is an annual project which we have been running since 2003, the purpose of which is to discover talented young people and train them in the art of Taiko drumming. After an audition and selection process, the successful applicants go through four months of training in order to perform at the yearly Dojo Showcase, some of whom may then go on to join Taiko Academy. This year was our fifth generation of Project Taiko.

Following the Big Bang, we were excited to begin the new year for Taiko Academy with four new members, two from Project Taiko and for the first time ever, two new members direct from Taiko Night.



TAIKO NIGHT



PROJECT TAIKO



TAIKO ACADEMY



## Goodbye to Anna

We'd like to say a sad goodbye to Anna Birkett, who had been working as administrator in our office since June 2004. She had been integral in the office set-up as the person in charge of the bookings, and we'll miss her very much. We wish Anna all the best in her future work, and good luck for her upcoming wedding in June.

## Hello Laura

A big welcome to Laura Watt, who will be taking over the role of bookings coordinator. Laura, who plays clarinet & is a big rock fan, previously worked with the Scottish Academy of Asian Arts. With her bubbly personality & charm, Laura is a welcome addition to our admin team.



## A sad goodbye to Ian Harkness,

who recently passed away. Ian had been the chairman of the Japan Society of Scotland for many years and had worked tirelessly to promote Japanese culture in Scotland through organising events, the Japan Society newsletter, and being a central point of contact for the Scottish-Japanese community. Ian was a great supporter of Mugenkyo & the Dojo, and he will be sorely missed...







# DOJO DRUMMERS

## SUMMER DATES so far...

Please keep checking the website: [www.taiko.co.uk](http://www.taiko.co.uk)

16 / 17 June	<b>Evesham Eastern Festival</b>	01386 565518
13 July	<b>Marlborough Jazz Festival</b>	01672 515095
4 August	<b>Halesworth (Suffolk), Gig in the Park</b>	

[www.giginthepark.co.uk](http://www.giginthepark.co.uk)   [info@giginthepark.co.uk](mailto:info@giginthepark.co.uk)

## Plus a very special concert at the 3rd UK Taiko Festival in Exeter

The UK Taiko Festival is a celebration of the growth & diversity of the Taiko movement in the UK. With a special emphasis on youth groups, it shows how far taiko has come in the last decade. The festival runs from 13th - 15th July, featuring performances at various locations around the city, hands-on workshops and appearances by taiko groups from all over the country,

As part of the festival, the Dojo Drummers will be performing at an evening concert alongside Kagemusha Taiko and Neil & Miyuki from Mugenkyo.

Saturday 14 July, 7:45 pm	Exeter, St. George's Hall
Tickets: £10 / £8 (concs)	Box Office: 01392 211 080

[www.taikofestival.org.uk](http://www.taikofestival.org.uk)



## MOTOFUJI GUEST WORKSHOP at the DOJO

After a highly successful workshop last year, we are excited to welcome Motofuji-san back to Scotland for a guest teacher workshop at the Dojo.

Motofuji-san is one of the most technically skilled taiko players in the world. He was group leader of "Oedo Sukeroku", responsible for training all new members. After becoming an independent player, he has been at the forefront of the Tokyo scene developing a modern form of Taiko, both as a solo player and with his 3-man group "Da.K.T."

Due to high demand, places will be offered first to those who have already attended a workshop at the Dojo.

Dates: 21/ 22 July  
 Cost: £160 non-residential (residential rates on request)  
 Further info: 01357 522 008 or [MTD@taiko.co.uk](mailto:MTD@taiko.co.uk)

For those of you in the Southeast, Motofuji-san will also be running a summer school in London, organised by the Asian Music Circuit.  
 29-31 July - course for young people / 2-4 August - course for adults  
 Further info: AMC - 020 8749 9584 or [ginger@amc.org.uk](mailto:ginger@amc.org.uk)

## MOTOFUJI & MEMBERS OF MUGENKYO JOINT CONCERT IN LONDON

A chance to see the amazing Motofuji-san in action, performing jointly with members of Mugenkyo. A one-off collaboration!

Sat 28 July, 7:30pm	London, Duke's Hall	0871 663 2500
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## MERCHANDISE

### MUGENKYO DVD

#### "ONE VIBRATION LIVE IN CONCERT"

Filmed in autumn 2006  
 16:9 Widescreen PAL  
 Length: 40 min



### MUGENKYO CD'S



#### "TEN"

Recorded in 2004 - big taiko stompers, with bamboo flute, bells, voice & didgeridoo & a bonus CD-rom of show clips.



#### "MUGENKYO"

Recorded in 1997.  
 Pure energy music!

### DOJO T-SHIRTS

Red print on black T-shirt  
 Certified fair-trade - organic cotton  
 sizes: M, L, XL (S sold out)



**FRONT:** Small logo on left breast - Mugen Taiko Dojo woodblock stamp



**BACK:** Large Japanese calligraphy "HIBIKI" meaning reverberation

## ORDER FORM

MUGENKYO DVD £14 \_\_\_\_\_

MUGENKYO CD'S £12 \_\_\_\_\_

"Ten" \_\_\_\_\_

"Mugenkyo" \_\_\_\_\_

DOJO T-SHIRTS £15 \_\_\_\_\_

Medium \_\_\_\_\_

Large \_\_\_\_\_

XL \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

All prices include VAT, packaging and postage within the UK. Please allow 14 days delivery. Please make cheques payable to:

**MTD Productions Ltd.**

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 Lanark ML11 0WA

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