

TAIKO TAIKO

ISSUE 37

AUTUMN 2008

It's been a busy summer season for us, rehearsing & performing "Yatra" a **Mugenkyo** collaboration for the Edinburgh Mela (see inside), educational projects, and the **Dojo Drummers** zooming up & down the country performing at all kinds of festivals, including visits to Ireland for the Dublin Maritime Festival and Newtonabbey for the Day of 1,000 Drummers.

Mugenkyo are now in rehearsals for the upcoming autumn tour. for this tour we have a very special guest for the England leg of the tour: Lale Sayoko, a beautiful Japanese bellydancer. Some of you may remember Sayoko from Neil & Miyuki's collaboration with Kenji Williams at the Glastonbury Festival last year. The combination worked well together, and we wanted to introduce Sayoko this year in our theatre concert. Unfortunately, she can't join us for the Northern Ireland and Scottish legs of the tour, due to her own performances in New York and Tokyo, but she will be with us for all of the English dates.



MUGENKYO TAIKO DRUMMERS

See enclosed leaflets for tour dates for the upcoming "Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers" tour in Sept / Oct / Nov 2008
See www.taiko.co.uk for updates to our winter schedule.



NEW DOJO T-SHIRTS

At last...new Dojo T-shirts - thank you for your patience, everybody!
The circular calligraphy on the back represents a drum, painted for us especially by the Oshosan Zen Buddhist monk at Daianzenji temple in Fukui, who is famed for his calligraphy.
The kanji characters at the top right of the design on the back read: Mugen Taiko Dojo, which literally means "the place of the way of limitless taiko drumming"

無限太鼓道場

The design is in white and mustard, printed on a black T-shirt, which is certified fair-trade & made from organic cotton.
Available from our merchandise stall at Mugenkyo concerts on the autumn tour, via mail order (cheque through the post), and also through our on-line shop on www.taiko.co.uk.



back
design

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. At the Dojo, we introduce the art form of Taiko through regular classes & residential workshops.

The Dojo's extensive outreach programme also 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.

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

Steve Greatorex, Pauline Wikes, Mrs E Hudson, Suzan Northway, Phil & Kate Webb, B Tredgett, Mrs WS Phillips, W Shearman, Clare Johnson, EM Dutton, Mrs B Hoare, Ken Hunt, Trevor D Lloyd, Sue Kearney, Kenneth Sims, Mrs Rona Patridge, Alan Bailey, CJ Payne, Paul Hopkinson, Jane Hill, Johannes Ruppel, Tony Woolston, DJ Hastings, Diane Verney

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.

Photos thanks to Lin Smith, Peter Searle, Mark Rafferty & Rob Campbell

TEES VALLEY EDUCATION PROJECT



Teresa led a week-long project in Tees Valley in June, which culminated in a performance by 300 secondary school students performing on 30 taiko drums onstage – a record for the UK! The project was coordinated by the Tees Valley Music Service, who have purchased a set of taiko drums to be used by all the schools in the area, involving over 60 schools, and set up a group called "Senshin Daiko". The performance took place at a world music festival, with taiko drum pieces taught by Teresa, and with students performing choreographed movement by dance star Wayne Sleep.



MUGENKYO TAIKO DRUMMERS ON TOUR...

Jen's dazzling display of bachi & percussion ... arranging the backstage trays

You scream, I scream, we all scream for ice cream ... by the beach at Barmouth in May

Miyuki's dressing room cookery school - gourmet dishes in a single rice cooker!



"YATRA" at the EDINBURGH MELA



Fiddling with "Ikkyo"

A first-time collaboration with Indian artists and traditional Scottish music was premiered at the Edinburgh Mela in August. A new composition, commissioned by the Mela and supported by the Edinburgh Expo Fund, the collaboration involved tabla, Indian singing, pipes, harp, fiddle, gaelic song, shinobue and taiko drumming. Exploratory rehearsals started in April and June, while lineups were being finalised, and to see what kinds of instrument combinations might work. In July we had small group rehearsals, to develop ideas, and then in August, full group rehearsals to pull the piece together. The piece evolved into a 50 minute performance, premiered at the Edinburgh Mela Festival. Technical challenges faced during the rehearsals included how to balance the quieter instruments such as harp and tabla with the loud pipes and even louder taiko drums. Another challenge was arranging the performance so that all 3 cultural traditions were well represented, and that 14 musicians involved could shine individually within the collaboration. It was a huge challenge to bring together the performance, and a big relief when it all clicked into place at the last. The two performances at the Mela were very well-received by the crowds, who especially went wild for the pipes & taiko combination. Yatra means "journey" in Sanskrit, and this performance will hopefully be the first step in an ongoing journey, exploring the possibilities with taiko fusion.



Gaelic song, shinobue & wire harp



The lineup & the applause

Tabla boys



In rehearsal at the RSAMD.... pipes & taiko - a deafening combination!



Indian song & bray harp

SCOTTISH CULTURAL MINISTER AT THE MUGEN TAIKO DOJO

We were honoured by a visit to the Dojo by the Scottish minister of culture, Linda Fabiani, who learned a short taiko piece and even had a chance to play on the Odaiko big drum!





INTRODUCTORY WEEKEND WORKSHOPS

A unique opportunity to learn to play the taiko drums at the UK's only purpose-built taiko drumming dojo - the introductory weekend workshop is a very special experience. The July workshops sold out quickly, so sign up soon if you want a place!

Date: 1 & 2 November 2008
 Cost: £180 - non-residential (residential rates on request)

Contact us on 01357 522 008 or MTD@taiko.co.uk for an information pack



FOLLOW-ON WEEKEND WORKSHOP

Sorry to all of you who tried to sign up for the August Follow-on and couldn't get on the course. The demand was much greater than expected, and as a result, we will be trying to fit in follow-on's more regularly from now on. The next follow-on will be based on the piece "Clockwork" Sign up soon if you want to be sure of a place! Please note that the follow-on & intensive workshops are only open to participants who have previously attended at least one workshop at the Dojo.

Date: Sat 29 & Sun 30 November

INTENSIVE COURSE

Learn the techniques and exercises which form the foundation of the energetic playing style of Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers. For those of you who are interested in coming on both the intensive & follow-on, you'll notice that this time the intensive course will precede the follow-on weekend.

Date: Wed 26, Thu 27 & Fri 28 November

VISITORS TO THE DOJO...

We were excited to welcome Art Lee to the Dojo in August. Art was performing at the Edinburgh Fringe with his group Tokara & Indian dance group Ragamala. We'd first met Art back in 1996 when his (then) group Sacramento Taiko Dan & Mugenkyo were performing at the first European Taiko Festival in Dusseldorf, Germany. It was great to see Art again!



MERCHANDISE

NEW DOJO T-SHIRT!

White & mustard print on black T-shirt
 Certified fair-trade - organic cotton
 sizes: XXL, XL, L, M, S & skinny fit



BACK: Large Japanese calligraphy drum symbol by Zen priest

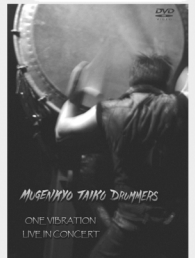


FRONT:
 Mugen Taiko Dojo logo

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 plus bonus CD-rom of show clips.



"MUGENKYO"

Recorded in 1997.
 Pure energy music!

ORDER FORM

Please use this form for postal orders
 (All our merchandise can also be ordered from the on-line shop at www.taiko.co.uk)

MUGENKYO DVD £14 _____

MUGENKYO CD'S £12 _____

"Ten" _____

"Mugenkyo" _____

DOJO T-SHIRT £17 _____

SIZE? _____

Available: XXL, XL, L, M, S & skinny fit

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

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

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