

# TAIKO TAIKO

ISSUE 41

SUMMER 2010

## MUGENKYO TAIKO DRUMMERS UK TOUR AUTUMN 2010

### September

- Tu 21 ALNWICK Playhouse 01665 510 785  
W 22 HARROGATE Theatre 01423 502 116  
Th 23 RIPON International Festival 01765 603 994  
Fr 24 BRADFORD St Georges Hall 01274 432 000  
Sa 25 WORCESTER Swan Theatre 01905 611 427  
Su 26 LOUGHBOROUGH Town Hall 01509 231 914  
Tu 28 HORSHAM The Capitol 01403 750 220  
W 29 CLACTON Princes Theatre 0125 686 633  
Th 30 CHELMSFORD Civic Theatre 01245 606 505

### October

- Fr 1 DARTFORD Orchard Theatre 01322 220 000  
Sa 2 UPPINGHAM Theatre 01572 820 820  
Su 3 MILTON KEYNES The Stables 01908 280 800  
M 4 EPSOM Playhouse 01372 742 555  
Tu 5 PORTSMOUTH Kings Theatre 02392 828 282  
Th 7 STOURBRIDGE Town Hall 01384 812 812  
Fr 8 FROME Merlin Theatre 01373 465 949  
Sa 9 ILFRACOMBE Landmark Theatre 01271 324 242  
Su 10 CARDIFF St Davids Hall 0292 087 8444  
M 11 BRIGHTON Theatre Royal 0848 717 650  
W 13 BOURNEMOUTH Pavilion Theatre 0844 576 3000  
Th 14 CRANBROOK Queen's Hall Theatre 01580 711 856  
Fr 15 LONDON New Wimbledon Theatre 0844 871 7646  
Su 17 KINGS LYNN Corn Exchange 01553 764 864  
Tu 19 MANSFIELD Palace Theatre 01623 633 133  
W 20 HIGH WYCOMBE Swan Theatre 01494 512 000  
Th 21 CHELTENHAM Town Hall 0844 576 2210  
Fr 22 WAKEFIELD Theatre Royal 01924 211 311  
Sa 23 ROCHDALE Gracie Fields Theatre 01706 716 689  
Su 24 BRACKNELL The Wilde Theatre 01344 484 123  
Tu 26 HARPENDEN Eric Morecambe Hall 01582 767 525  
W 27 BURY ST EDMUNDS Theatre Royal 01284 769 505  
Th 28 RETFORD Majestic Theatre 01777 706 866  
Fr 29 BARROW-IN-FURNESS Forum 28 01229 820 000  
Sa 30 MUSSELBURGH Brunton Theatre 0131 665 2240  
Su 31 INVERNESS Eden Court Theatre 01463 234 234

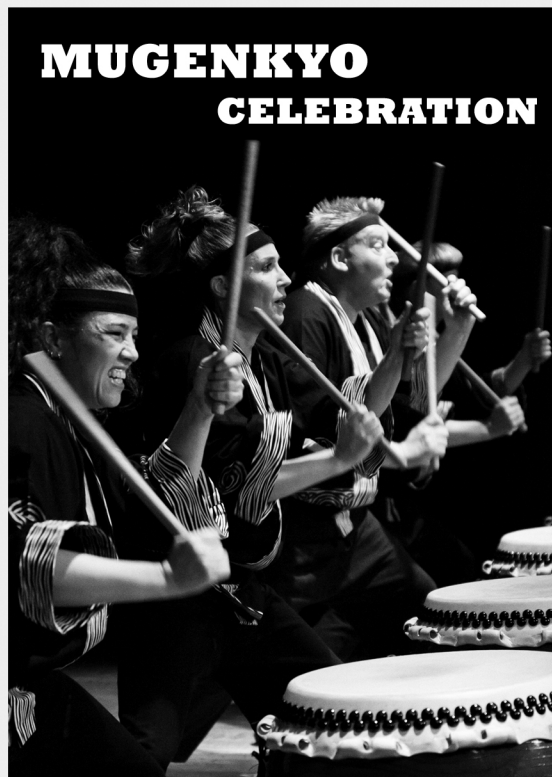
### November

- Tu 2 GLASGOW Pavilion Theatre 0141 332 1846  
W 3 DUNDEE Whitehall Theatre 08717 029 486

photo: Marius Shanzer



## NEW DVD OUT IN SEPTEMBER



2009 was Mugenkyo's 15th Anniversary & we celebrated with a series of concerts in Central Scotland with special guests Lale Sayoko, and the original members of Mugenkyo: Liz Walters & Mark Alcock. The concerts were filmed, capturing all the magic of this special occasion, with rehearsal and backstage footage & interviews.

The first 1000 copies will also feature a bonus live CD of the concert.

Order your copy now & you'll receive it as soon as it's off the press in mid-September. The DVD will also be on sale at our autumn concerts. Our website is currently getting a complete revamp & the DVD will be on sale on our new online store from mid September.

- Catch a flashback to the original line-up of Mugenkyo with our very first composition "Ikkyo", featuring Liz & Mark.
  - See the highly original combination of bellydance & "Odaiko", with Mackie & the beautiful Lale Sayoko.
  - Experience a 9-strong lineup of "Phoenix", with driving shiburoku base rhythm & powerful solos.
  - View a mesmerising veil dance by Lale Sayoko with the exciting rhythms of "Tojumbo".
  - See the mysterious Hanya masked dance with the hypnotic rhythms of "Essence".
- All this & more on the new Mugenkyo DVD!

# TAIKO TAIKO

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



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.

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ML11 OWA  
U.K. [www.taiko.co.uk](http://www.taiko.co.uk)

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

Ruth Evans, Mr. M Chapman, Mrs. DM Godden,  
Sybil Mackie, F. Waplyn, Mr. Wingfield

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:  
Colin Robertson [www.iconphotography.com](http://www.iconphotography.com)  
Marius Shanzer & Paddy Gibson

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# TAIKO TAIKO

EMAIL NEWSLETTER OF MUGENKYO TAIKO DRUMMERS & THE MUGEN TAIKO DOJO

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Drummers"



# DOJO TEAM SUMMER PERFORMANCES

The members of the Dojo have had a busy summer, with lots of local performances, including the Glasgow Mela, the Edinburgh Corstorphine Fair, the Beltane Festival and many more. The training system at the Dojo has had an overhaul this year, and we are currently 25-strong, with some new faces & with many of the Dojo members training 2 or 3 times a week.



## "TAIKO DRUMFEST" DOJO SHOWCASE CONCERT

A special concert showcasing the training groups at the Dojo, and featuring participants from our autumn performance course. Come & celebrate with us at the drumfest, featuring over 40 drummers onstage!

Friday 12 November Livingston, Howden Park Centre 01506 777 666

## MUGENKYO ON TELEVISION

Mugenkyo blew the roof off at Elstree Studios, filming Children's BBC programme "The Slammer", to be broadcast this autumn.

Mugenkyo were also a great hit on STV's "The Hour" last November - you can view the footage on [www.stv.tv](http://www.stv.tv) - by searching for "Mugenkyo" - Enjoy!



# TAIKO COURSE & PERFORMANCE PROJECT IN GLASGOW & EDINBURGH

Are you fit, energetic, rhythmic & a natural performer? Join our performance project & learn to play the taiko drums at a 10-week course leading to a performance as part of a professional production. Experience in percussion, music, dance or martial arts is an advantage, but is not a pre-requisite - we teach you all of the skills that you will need. But we do require that all of the participants have a good sense of rhythm, be physically fit, and enjoy performing on a stage.

The Glasgow course will be held on Saturday mornings (11am - 1pm) at Sounds of Progress, Trongate, which is next to the Tron Theatre. The dates of the course are: September 11, 18, 25, October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, November 6.

The Edinburgh course will be held on Wednesday evenings (7:30 - 9:30pm) at St Johns Church, at the corner of Lothian Road & Princes Street. The dates of the course are: September 8, 15, 22, 29, October 13, 20, 27, November 3, 10.

The 10th session for both groups will be held at the Mugen Taiko Dojo in South Lanarkshire on Thursday 11 November, 7 - 10pm, which will consist of a final rehearsal for the performance, in costume. Lift-sharing will be arranged for those without transport. The performance itself will take place at the Howden Park Centre in Livingston on Friday 12 November, 7:30pm, and will be part of our "Taiko Drumfest" concert. The cost of the course is £120. Contact us ASAP if you are interested in joining the course, as places are limited.

For those not local to Glasgow or Edinburgh, or those who want to learn taiko without leading to a performance, we encourage you to join a weekend workshop instead - we have an introductory weekend coming up on 4 / 5 September.

## MUGENKYO GET ALL JAZZED UP WITH "THE WORLD OF THE GODS"

The Mugenkyo collaboration with the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra in the spring was a huge success, and received full standing ovations in Glasgow & Edinburgh, and excellent reviews in the press.

Jazz fans were introduced to the powerful sounds of taiko, and Taiko fans heard taiko as never heard before. It wasn't simply a concert of jazz & taiko stuck together. The entire two hour concert weaved the two art-forms together into a seamless whole, bringing in not just the sounds of taiko, but also the visual element, theatricality & lighting. For many of the pieces, Tommy Smith, director of the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra, wrote beautiful tunes and new arrangements of traditional Japanese melodies, to fit with our taiko drum pieces. And for some of the jazz melodies, we fitted new taiko drum rhythms to them, opening a whole new avenue of creativity.

The overall view was that this collaboration was certainly more than a sum of its parts. We are hoping that the project will be repeated next year, at a range of jazz festivals throughout the UK - watch this space!





## INTRODUCTORY WEEKEND WORKSHOP

Learn to play the taiko drums with Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers. The workshop takes you step-by-step from the stance, bachi drumstick grip, basic rhythms, through to learning a whole taiko drumming piece by the end of the weekend.

Join us for a fun & rewarding weekend!

Dates: Sat 4 / Sun 5 September 2010  
or Sat 20 / Sun 21 November 2010

Cost: £180 non-residential  
(contact us for residential rates)

For further details: 01357 522 008 / MTD@taiko.co.uk

## FOLLOW-ON WEEKEND WORKSHOP

Learn the piece "Kitsune Daiko" – this piece is based on the shichisan rhythm, and is one of the basic pieces in the Dojo repertoire. The name means "Fox Taiko" and like the fox of Japanese folklore, it likes to trick people! The workshop is only open to those who have attended an introductory workshop or equivalent course.

Date: Sat 13 / Sun 14 November 2010

Cost: £180 non-residential  
(contact us for residential rates)

For further details: 01357 522 008 / MTD@taiko.co.uk



## INTENSIVE COURSE

Get to grips with the nitty gritty of taiko technique. This course is designed for taiko players who are keen to improve. We won't be learning a piece at this course - instead we'll be concentrating on the fundamentals & working on improving basic technique through specific training exercises. The intensive course may be booked independently, or in conjunction with the Follow-on Workshop.

Date: Mon 15 / Tue 16 / Wed 17 November 2010

Cost: £240 non-residential  
(contact us for residential rates)

For further details: 01357 522 008 / MTD@taiko.co.uk

## MERCHANDISE

### NEW MUGENKYO DVD!



#### "CELEBRATION"

Our new DVD, celebrating our 15th Anniversary concert, featuring special guests Lale Sayoko & original members of Mugenkyo: Liz Walters and Mark Alcock.

The first 1,000 copies will include a bonus live CD.



#### "ONE VIBRATION LIVE IN CONCERT"

A document of our autumn 2006 concert  
16:9 Widescreen PAL Length: 40 min

### MUGENKYO CD'S



#### "ERA"

Recorded in 2009 - two Odaiko big drum pieces, our own versions of traditional classics, plus the very modern "Belenos".



#### "MUGENKYO"

Recorded in 1997.  
Pure energy music!

#### "TEN"

Recorded in 2004 - big taiko stompers & bamboo flute, plus bonus CD-rom.



### DOJO T-SHIRT

White & mustard print on black T-shirt  
Certified fair-trade - organic cotton  
sizes: XXL, XL, L, M, S, kids (size 8)



FRONT:  
Mugen Taiko  
Dojo logo

BACK: Large Japanese  
calligraphy drum  
symbol by Zen priest

## 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](http://www.taiko.co.uk))

MUGENKYO CD's £12

"Era" \_\_\_\_\_ "Ten" \_\_\_\_\_ "Mugenkyo" \_\_\_\_\_

MUGENKYO DVD's

NEW DVD - "Celebration" £18 \_\_\_\_\_

"One Vibration" £14 \_\_\_\_\_

DOJO T-SHIRT £17 \_\_\_\_\_ size: \_\_\_\_\_

Available: XXL, XL, L, M, S, kids (size 8)

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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