

TAIKO TAIKO

ISSUE 42

AUTUMN 2011

THE AUTUMN TOUR

We are on the eve of setting off on our tour, and the Dojo is abuzz with preparations. We hope to see you at a concert this autumn!

We're delighted to welcome on this tour the fabulous flute player Nobuko Miyazaki, direct from New York, who will be performing both shinobue and western flute on selected dates. We also have special guest Clive Bell, London-based shakuhachi bamboo flute player, whose earthy sounds & ethereal melodies will complement the powerful taiko sounds.

The tour begins at one of our favourite venues, the Halifax Square Chapel, followed by a festival set at the BBC Proms in London Hyde Park this coming Saturday. The next day we will be returning to the premier venue of the Northeast, the beautiful Gateshead Sage.

Other highlights this tour include first-time visits to Birmingham Town Hall, Basingstoke Anvil, Leeds Town Hall and Edinburgh Usher Hall. We are also looking forward to return visits to many of our favourite venues around the country. See full details on our website.

We are also excited to unveil our new team this year. Founding member of the group Miyuki will be missing the tour, having just given birth to her first son in August. We are also sad to see the departure of long-term member Teresa, who after ten years of touring and teaching has decided to call time as a member of the group. This year's line-up sees the return of Shonagh Walker & Fi Stoddart, who featured in Mugenkyo's 15th anniversary tour in 2009, Joao Madeira, dreadlocked Portuguese funny-man from last year's tour, new members and experienced drummers & percussionists Martin Doyle & Barry Jack, as well as founding member Neil Mackie. As a result this year's tour will see many new developments and a few surprises. We hope you enjoy...!



MUGENKYO TAIKO DRUMMERS UK TOUR AUTUMN 2011

SEPTEMBER

- Fr 9 HALIFAX** Square Chapel 01422 349 422
Sa 10 LONDON BBC Proms in the Park 0844 412 4630
Su 11 GATESHEAD The Sage 0191 443 4661
W 14 HULL New Theatre 01482 300 300
Th 15 CHESHAM Elgiva Theatre 01494 582 900
Fr 16 READING Hexagon 0118 960 6060
Sa 17 HAYES Beck Theatre 020 8561 8371
Su 18 TUNBRIDGE WELLS Assembly Hall 01892 530 613
Tu 20 BIRMINGHAM Town Hall 0121 780 3333
W 21 DUNSTABLE Grove Theatre 01582 602 080
Th 22 HERTFORD Theatre 01992 531 500
Fr 23 NORTHAMPTON Royal & Derngate 01604 624 811
Su 25 GRAVESEND Woodville Halls 01474 337 774
Tu 27 SHREWSBURY Theatre Severn 01743 281 281
W 28 STOCKPORT Plaza 0161 477 7779
Th 29 BURY ST EDMUNDS The Apex 01284 758 000
Fr 30 CAMBRIDGE Corn Exchange 01223 357 851

OCTOBER

- Sa 1 NEWARK** Palace Theatre 01636 655 755
Su 2 BUXTON Opera House 0845 127 2190
M 3 BLACKPOOL Grand Theatre 01253 290 190
W 5 SWINDON Wyvern Theatre 01793 524 481
Th 6 WIMBORNE MINSTER Tivoli Theatre 01202 885 566
Fr 7 ISLE OF WIGHT Medina Theatre 01983 527 020
Sa 8 EASTLEIGH Berry Theatre 01489 799 499
Su 9 WORTHING Pavilion Theatre 01903 206 206
Tu 11 MALVERN Forum Theatre 01684 892 277
W 12 CARDIGAN Theatr Mwldan 01239 621 200
Th 13 SWANSEA Grand Theatre 01792 475 715
Fr 14 TAUNTON Brewhouse 01823 283 244
Sa 15 BASINGSTOKE Anvil 01256 844 244
Su 16 BATH Theatre Royal 01225 448 844
Tu 18 HEREFORD Courtyard 01432 340 555
W 19 STRATFORD UPON AVON Music Fest 01789 207 100
Th 20 SKEGNESS Embassy Theatre 0845 674 0505
Fr 21 LEEDS Town Hall 0113 224 3801
Sa 22 BARNLEY Civic 01226 327 000
Su 23 SCARBOROUGH Spa 01723 357 869

NOVEMBER

- W 2 ST ANDREWS** Byre Theatre 01334 475 000
Th 3 PERTH Concert Hall 01738 621 031
Fr 4 EDINBURGH Usher Hall 0131 228 1155
Sa 19 LONDON Jazz Festival 0844 847 9910
"World of Gods" collaboration with SNJO, Southbank Centre

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

Ken Hunt, Harumi Williams, Vicky & Stephen McClusky

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

Marius Shanzer & Paddy Gibson

"TAIKO TAIKO" email newsletter

Switch to the email newsletter & save trees!

Send us an email with your name & town where you live, and we'll send you our email newsletter

TAIKO TAIKO

EMAIL NEWSLETTER OF MUGENKYO TAIKO DRUMMERS & THE MUGEN TAIKO DOJO

Join us on Facebook search for "Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers"



TAIKO DRUMFEST CONCERT & FUNDRAISER FOR JAPAN TSUNAMI APPEAL

The Taiko Drumfest Concert in East Kilbride was a great success, with a stunning performance by the full compliment of the Dojo Performance Team. The concert also featured a guest appearance by participants of the Glasgow & Edinburgh courses, for a total of over 40 drummers taking part in the event.

Due to the disaster in Japan, we decided to make the Drumfest a fundraiser for the Red Cross Japan Tsunami Appeal, and we were delighted to raise over £2,200 for the appeal, consisting of the full proceeds of the night, the proceeds of a raffle (a big thank you for the generous donations of prizes) & a donation by South Lanarkshire Council. Thank you to all who contributed & everyone who took part in the fundraising event. It was but a small drop in the ocean in what is a huge reconstruction effort in Japan, but we were delighted that we were able to give back a small amount to the country which gave us so much & set us on our taiko path.



THE WAY OF THE DRUM TOUR - JUNE 2011

The Way of the Drum tour in June was a great success, and was quite possibly the most eventful tour of our history. We started with four concerts in the Channel Islands: Guernsey, Jersey, Sark and Alderney. For our travel between the islands, the music council had organised a boat charter for us, which we welcomed after our experiences on our previous Channel Island visit with chartered flights being grounded due to fog. However, our excitement over having our own boat was to be short-lived, as we soon found out that we were to take to the seas in a small fishing boat, with our equipment strapped to the deck, when all ferries had been cancelled due to rough sea conditions. Our fearless skipper, Cap'n Ray did a fine job of steering the small boat through the rough waves, with all of us flung from side to side inside the boat as the waves crashed over us, soaking all of our equipment despite our best efforts wrapping the cases in tarpaulin. Sick bags were distributed all round and we were all worse for wear after each journey. Despite this, our day in Jersey was a highlight of the tour: after the treacherous morning journey from Sark, we performed live on the radio, then an afternoon schools performance for the local kids, then a standing ovation at the evening concert. We certainly slept well that night!

At Cumbernauld Theatre we were delighted to welcome onstage the participants of our taiko courses for a short guest spot - well done to you all for your energetic performance. At Wem Town Hall we were excited to perform in front of a hall full of taiko players, thanks to the teaching efforts of James Barrow at the local schools there. Thanks to all of you for your support!

Our final "Way of the Drum" concert was at the Portsmouth Cathedral, where the taiko created a deep resounding sound throughout the magnificent stone edifice, making for a very memorable conclusion to an eventful tour.



DOJO TEAM SUMMER SHOWS

It has been a busy summer of performances for our Dojo Team: street performance at the multicultural Mela festivals in Glasgow & Edinburgh, busking at the Portobello Big Busk, entertaining dignitaries at the Alnwick Gardens, and a stage set in front of thousands of revelers in Kircudbright.

One highlight was the Edinburgh Marathon, where the Dojo members split into five separate teams, each team encouraging the runners as they went by, then driving to the next point en route in a relay system, entertaining the runners throughout the whole route. The team are now back in rehearsals for their next season of gigs!

INTRODUCTORY WEEKEND WORKSHOP AT THE DOJO

Experience taiko with Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers at their base and HQ in rural Scotland. The workshop takes you step-by-step from the fundamentals of taiko; the stance and bachi drumstick grip, to learning traditional rhythms in an accessible and rewarding weekend. Experience taiko up close and personal!

Dates: Sat 12 / Sun 13 November 2011
or Sat 26 / Sun 27 November 2011

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

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



EDINBURGH & GLASGOW COURSE

Learn to play the taiko drums in a 7-week course in Glasgow or Edinburgh, leading to a performance at the Dojo. Join us for an exciting and rewarding course learning this wonderful art-form.

The Edinburgh course starts on Monday 24 October, on Monday evenings at St John's Church. There are two courses in Edinburgh:
6:30 - 8:00 pm - Introductory course for beginners
8:30 - 10:00 pm - Follow-on course for previous participants and those with taiko experience.

The Glasgow course starts on Wednesday 26 October, on Wednesday evenings in the West End.
7:00 - 8:30 pm - Course suitable both for beginners and for those with experience. If you have previous experience in drums and percussion, this course will guide you through a process of skills transfer to taiko drumming.

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



MERCHANDISE

MUGENKYO DVD'S



"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".



"TEN"

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



"MUGENKYO"

Recorded in 1997. Pure energy music!

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)

MUGENKYO CD's £12

"Era" _____ "Ten" _____ "Mugenkyo" _____

MUGENKYO DVD's

"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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