

# TAIKO TAIKO

ISSUE 43

NEW YEAR 2012

New Year greetings from all of us here at the Dojo in the year of the Dragon. We have an exciting year ahead, touring the full Mugenkyo show in May and October, and the more intimate & interactive show "The Way of the Drum" in March & November, introducing traditional styles and famous taiko pieces. In between, we have a trip to Japan, performing at the Extasia & Saiwai Shimoina Wadaiko Festivals in Japan. Extasia is the world's foremost taiko festival, and it is a great honour to be invited to perform there, as it is a gathering of the very best groups in Japan, and also a great honour to be representing European Taiko. It will be a very special occasion for the group, as it will be exactly 20 years ago (almost to the day!) that Neil & Miyuki first went to Japan & started on their taiko journey with a fateful meeting with Masaaki Kurumaya Sensei which would change their lives forever. We would never have imagined 20 years ago that we would be here today, touring a professional taiko group. So this year will mark the start of our 20 year celebrations, culminating in 2014 with the 20th anniversary of the Mugenkyo group - watch this space!

For updates on our summer festival performances, keep checking our website [www.taiko.co.uk](http://www.taiko.co.uk) - or sign up now for our email newsletter!



## THE WAY OF THE DRUM -- FEBRUARY - MARCH 2012

An intimate, fun & informative evening of taiko rhythms, with all the energy & excitement of a Mugenkyo concert.

Tu 28	LANCASTER	Grand Theatre	01524 64695	<a href="http://www.lancastergrand.co.uk">www.lancastergrand.co.uk</a>
Th 1	BISHOPS STORTFORD	Rhodes	01279 651 746	<a href="http://www.rhodesbishopsstortford.org.uk">www.rhodesbishopsstortford.org.uk</a>
Fr 2	DIDCOT	Cornerstone Arts Centre	01235 515 144	<a href="http://www.cornerstone-arts.org">www.cornerstone-arts.org</a>
Sa 3	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD	Old Town Hall	01442 228 091	<a href="http://www.oldtownhall.co.uk">www.oldtownhall.co.uk</a>
Su 4	FROME	Merlin Theatre	01373 465 949	<a href="http://www.merlintheatre.co.uk">www.merlintheatre.co.uk</a>
Tu 6	STOURPORT ON SEVERN	The Civic Centre	01299 878 087	<a href="http://www.thecivicstourport.co.uk">www.thecivicstourport.co.uk</a>
W 7	BATCHLEY	HDA Sports & Social Club	01527 457 291	<a href="http://www.liveandlocal.org.uk">www.liveandlocal.org.uk</a>
Th 8	QUARNDON	Church Hall	01332 840 007	<a href="http://www.liveandlocal.org.uk">www.liveandlocal.org.uk</a>
Fr 9	NUNEATON	St Nicolas Community Centre	02476 344 553	<a href="http://www.liveandlocal.org.uk">www.liveandlocal.org.uk</a>
Sa 10	TIDESWELL	St John the Baptist Church	01298 871 063	<a href="http://www.liveandlocal.org.uk">www.liveandlocal.org.uk</a>
M 12	BOREHAMWOOD	The Ark Theatre	0208 238 7288	<a href="http://www.thearktheatre.co.uk">www.thearktheatre.co.uk</a>
Tu 13	HARPENDEN	Public Halls	01582 767 525	<a href="http://www.harpendenpublichalls.co.uk">www.harpendenpublichalls.co.uk</a>
W 14	LOUGHBOROUGH	Arts Centre	01509 635 000	<a href="http://www.arts.lboro.ac.uk">www.arts.lboro.ac.uk</a>
Th 15	CROMER	Pavilion Theatre	01263 512 495	<a href="http://www.cromer-pier.com">www.cromer-pier.com</a>
Fr 16	LINCOLN	Drill Hall	01522 873 894	<a href="http://www.lincoln-drillhall.com">www.lincoln-drillhall.com</a>
Sa 17	GOOLE	Junction	01405 763 652	<a href="http://www.junctiongoole.co.uk">www.junctiongoole.co.uk</a>
Su 18	GLASGOW	Rutherglen Town Hall	0141 613 5700	<a href="http://www.sllcboxoffice.co.uk">www.sllcboxoffice.co.uk</a>

## MUGENKYO CONCERT TOUR -- MAY 2012

The full-on tour with our big stage show and the return of Miyuki to this year's line-up

Th 10	WOLVERHAMPTON	Grand Theatre	01902 429 212	<a href="http://www.grandtheatre.co.uk">www.grandtheatre.co.uk</a>
Fr 11	TEWKESBURY	The Roses	01684 295 074	<a href="http://www.rosestheatre.org">www.rosestheatre.org</a>
Sa 12	POOLE	Lighthouse	08444 068 666	<a href="http://www.lighthousepoole.co.uk">www.lighthousepoole.co.uk</a>
Su 13	WATFORD	Colosseum	0845 075 3993	<a href="http://www.watfordcolosseum.co.uk">www.watfordcolosseum.co.uk</a>
Tu 15	GUILDFORD	G Live	0844 7701 797	<a href="http://www.glive.co.uk">www.glive.co.uk</a>
W 16	YEOVIL	The Octagon Theatre	01935 422 884	<a href="http://www.octagon-theatre.co.uk">www.octagon-theatre.co.uk</a>
Th 17	CAMBERLEY	Camberley Theatre	01276 707 600	<a href="http://www.camberleytheatre.biz">www.camberleytheatre.biz</a>
Sa 19	LOWESTOFT	Marina Theatre	01502 533 200	<a href="http://www.marinatheatre.co.uk">www.marinatheatre.co.uk</a>
Su 20	PETERBOROUGH	Key Theatre	01733 207 239	<a href="http://www.peterboroughkeytheatre.co.uk">www.peterboroughkeytheatre.co.uk</a>
M 21	SOLIHULL	Solihull Arts Complex	0121 704 6962	<a href="http://www.solihullartscomplex.co.uk">www.solihullartscomplex.co.uk</a>
Tu 22	NEWBURY	Corn Exchange	01635 522 733	<a href="http://www.newburyspringfestival.org.uk">www.newburyspringfestival.org.uk</a>
W 23	DARTFORD	The Orchard Theatre	01322 220 000	<a href="http://www.orchardtheatre.co.uk">www.orchardtheatre.co.uk</a>
Th 24	FELIXSTOWE	The Spa Pavilion Theatre	01394 282 126	<a href="http://www.thespavivion.org">www.thespavivion.org</a>
Fr 25	BRADFORD	St Georges Concert Hall	01274 432 000	<a href="http://www.bradford-theatres.co.uk/st-georges-hall">www.bradford-theatres.co.uk/st-georges-hall</a>
Sa 26	HARROGATE	Royal Hall	01423 502 116	<a href="http://www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk">www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk</a>
Su 27	BILLINGHAM	Forum Theatre	01642 552 663	<a href="http://www.forumtheatrebillingham.co.uk">www.forumtheatrebillingham.co.uk</a>
Tu 29	DUNDEE	Caird Hall	01382 434 940	<a href="http://www.dundeebox.co.uk">www.dundeebox.co.uk</a>
W 30	INVERNESS	Eden Court	01463 234 234	<a href="http://www.eden-court.co.uk">www.eden-court.co.uk</a>
Th 31	GLENROTHES	Rotheshall	01592 611 101	<a href="http://www.rotheshalls.org.uk">www.rotheshalls.org.uk</a>

# 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.

MTD  
P.O. Box 5124 email: [MTD@taiko.co.uk](mailto:MTD@taiko.co.uk)  
Lanark tel/fax: 01357 522 008  
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.

Please remember, it costs money to put out "Taiko Taiko". 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

**"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 include you on our regular email bulletins.

# TAIKO TAIKO

EMAIL NEWSLETTER OF MUGENKYO TAIKO DRUMMERS & THE MUGEN TAIKO DOJO

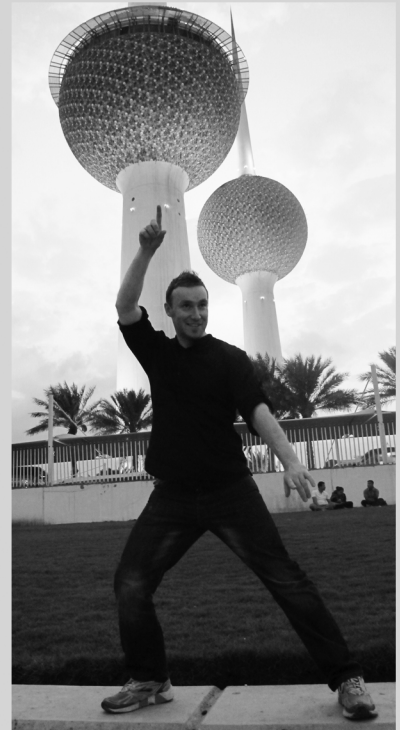
Join us on  
Facebook  
search for  
"Mugenkyo  
Taiko  
Drummers"



# MUGENKYO IN KUWAIT

The very next day after completing our 42-date autumn tour, we immediately flew out to Kuwait to perform at a music festival as part of the Eid Islamic celebrations.

As the only female performer at the festival, Fi received lots of adulation, as did Joao with his dreadlocks and tattoos. The audience at the festival, many of whom in burkas, and lots of families, joined in enthusiastically at the performance in the open-air arena. With much clapping, joining in with our rhythms & audience participation, the crowd really enjoyed themselves. Our visit was a huge success & one we'll never forget.



# BBC PROMS IN HYDE PARK

As part of our 2011 autumn tour, we were honoured to perform at the BBC Proms in London Hyde Park, in front of a 40,000 strong crowd & live television cameras. See an excerpt of our performance on our YouTube site: [www.youtube.com/MUGENKYOvision](http://www.youtube.com/MUGENKYOvision)



# NEWS FROM THE LAST AUTUMN TOUR

Our 2011 tour began at the Halifax Square Chapel on 9th Sept & ended at the Usher Hall in Edinburgh on 4th November, with sell-out crowds in Halifax, Taunton, St Andrew's, Cardigan, Isle of Wight & Bury St Edmunds.

We were delighted to have on tour Nobuko Miyazaki on the shinobue & western flute, and Clive bell on the shakuhachi, Thai khene and a variety of wind instruments, each playing on selected dates.

Highlights of the tour included the splendid acoustics of Gateshead Sage, the beautiful art deco surroundings of Stockport Plaza, an incredible huge organ as a backdrop at the Leeds Town Hall, an up-for-it crowd at the Cambridge Corn Exchange & a warm reunion with friends at the Hertford Theatre.

Our own performance at the Reading Hexagon was voted best-on-tour by the group, complete with a stage invasion by one member of the audience!

As we neared the end of the tour, our trusty silver van's brakes failed, leading to one of the very few show cancellations in our 17 year history. Apologies to those of you in Barnsley who bought tickets. The team returned all the way to Scotland to retrieve & re-load our battered old blue van which completed the England leg with a frantic get-in at Scarborough.

Our tour concluded with a home-coming concert at the prestigious Usher Hall in Edinburgh, where the group played their hearts out in front of a huge crowd. Now we can look forward to 2012!



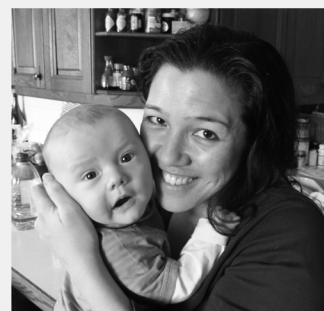
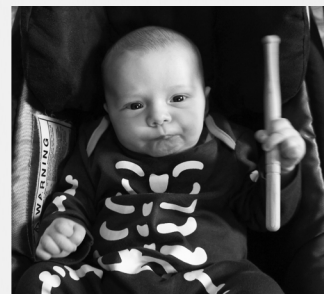
## THANK YOU

A big thank you from Miyuki to everyone who sent gifts & good wishes. She missed being on the road last autumn and is hoping to be back on the road very soon.

In the meantime she has been busy starting her newborn son, Baxter on his Taiko lessons!

Baxter has also been picking up performance tips from his dad Neil, watching concerts in Gateshead, Blackpool, Swindon & Edinburgh, from the tender age of 5 weeks old!

Luckily he approved!



## "THE WORLD OF GODS" at the LONDON JAZZ FESTIVAL

We were thrilled to perform at the London Jazz Festival with the Scottish National Jazz Orchestra at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, for the official unveiling of our taiko-jazz collaboration "The World of Gods".

The performance was a great success, with both jazz fans & taiko fans enjoying the fruits of this highly original and adventurous collaboration.

This was Miyuki's first performance back after her break, performing the Odaiko big drum, "Tomoe", and even "Chichibu Yatai Bayashi", the stomach-crunching style of playing, only 3 and a half months after giving birth!



## NEW INTRODUCTORY WEEKEND WORKSHOPS AT THE DOJO

We have an exciting new format to our introductory weekend workshops, much enjoyed by the participants at the workshops at the end of last year, highly recommended, even if you've been to the Dojo before. The new-format weekend includes learning three different short pieces and trying out two new styles of playing, including a short introduction to the Odaiko big drum. We have just one weekend in the first part of the year, so book now!

Dates: Sat 21 / Sun 22 April

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

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



## EDINBURGH & GLASGOW COURSES

Learn to play the taiko drums in a 7-week course in Glasgow or Edinburgh, leading to a performance at the Dojo. The next courses start on Monday 20 February, with both introductory & follow-on courses. Enjoy learning taiko at an accessible yet challenging & rewarding series of sessions.

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

## DONATE FOR DREADLOCKS

For those of you who enjoyed watching Joao Madeira performing in his flowing dreadlocks on tour this year & last, you will be interested to know that he is raising money for the Multiple Sclerosis Society by cutting off his dreadlocks as soon as he reaches his target of £2,000. Find out more & donate now - visit:

[www.justgiving.com/Joao-Madeira](http://www.justgiving.com/Joao-Madeira)

This means you may be seeing a very different Joao on our upcoming tours!



## MERCHANDISE ---NEW YEAR SALE!

£££s off everything!



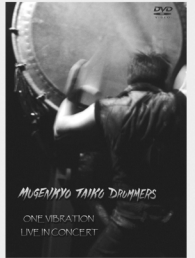
### MUGENKYO DVD'S

#### "CELEBRATION"

Our last DVD, celebrating our 15th Anniversary concert, featuring special guests Lale Sayoko & original members of Mugenkyo Liz Walters & Mark Alcock. Includes a bonus live CD.

#### "ONE VIBRATION LIVE IN CONCERT"

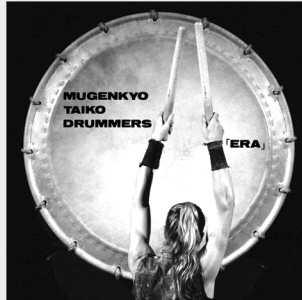
A document of our classic autumn 2006 concert  
16:9 Widescreen PAL  
Length: 40 min



### 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!



FRONT:  
Mugen Taiko  
Dojo logo

BACK: Large Japanese  
calligraphy drum  
symbol by Zen priest

### DOJO T-SHIRT

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

## 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~~ £10

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

MUGENKYO DVD's

"Celebration" ~~£18~~ £15 \_\_\_\_\_

"One Vibration" ~~£14~~ £10 \_\_\_\_\_

DOJO T-SHIRT ~~£12~~ £15 \_\_\_\_\_ 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.**

Send this form to: MTD, P.O Box 5124, Lanark ML11 0WA

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