

# TAIKO TAIKO

ISSUE 45

NEW YEAR 2013

## HAPPY YEAR OF THE SNAKE!

The year has now started in earnest, with our first full concert of the year at Keele University, concluding a two-week educational project in January with a range of students. We are currently mixing a new CD and editing a DVD of last year's tour (both out in May!) and we are also in preparation for our upcoming "Way of the Drum" tour in February - March, with our May "Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers" tour following hot on its heels. More news & full tour dates inside!

## CONCERT WITH MASAACKI KURUMAYA SENSEI CELEBRATING A 20-YEAR RELATIONSHIP

Last October we were very honoured by the visit of Masaaki Kurumaya Sensei, who performed as special guest at our concert at the picturesque King's Theatre in Glasgow. It was a monumental concert for us, celebrating the 20-year relationship with our original teacher, and was filmed and recorded for a future DVD. The visit included intensive masterclasses for our Dojo team, with Kurumaya Sensei sharing his inspirational teaching.

It was exactly 20 years ago that Mugenkyo founders Neil Mackie & Miyuki Williams first met Kurumaya Sensei in Japan; a fateful meeting which first started them on their taiko journey, and would come to have a huge effect on the growth and development of the taiko scene in the UK. The concert celebrated that first meeting, the strong traditions of the Fukui area, the new directions of taiko, and a very eventful 20 years.

The concert featured both old and new: "Fukui no Taiko" showcased the traditional Fukui style of which Masaaki Kurumaya is a master, featuring improvised solos over the "mitsuuchi" and "shiburoku" rhythms. Kurumaya Sensei is also an innovator and creative force in taiko, demonstrated by the piece created especially for the Glasgow concert: "Alchemy", which featured wave drum synthesiser and jazz shinobue flute, sending the sparks of energy between Neil Mackie and Kurumaya Sensei flying!

Masaaki Kurumaya is not only an accomplished taiko performer, he is also a renowned teacher. At the concert we were also delighted to welcome two of his students: Shigemi Yokota and Keita Honda, who performed "Shinagase on Asa".

The highlight of the concert was undoubtedly "Kaikigenyo", a piece composed by Kurumaya Sensei symbolising the tradition of the Shinto religion of the 20-year renewal. We performed this piece all together, both to commemorate the 20 years and also to mark the start of another 20-year cycle, with a renewed mind & heart.



# 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 introduce taiko as a cultural art-form and develop it as a modern performing art 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 & performances by the Dojo Performance Team.

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:

John Sparrow, Michael E. Smith, Joseph Harris, Harumi Williams, Pauline Wilkes, Anthony Clewer, Mrs J Smith, Suzan Northway, John Sparrow, Rozalia Harris, Denise Zollman, Angela Willder, Hilary MacPherson, June Radford, Janet Amos, Susan Deakins, Jan Short, Pat & Ken Haywood, Sybil Mackie and Nigel Savage.

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)

"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

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# NEWS (continued from front page)

Last autumn we were excited to perform in a collaboration with the National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland. Over a series of workshop sessions we developed a joint piece which made full use of the intricate snare drum rhythms of their top-class youth drummers, with the visuals and visceral power of the taiko drums. On the same day the main Mugenkyo team performed at the Lord Mayor's Show in London shown live on BBC TV, with Yatai drums and two Odaiko big drums on a festival float.

In our office we were sad to see the departure of Janet Yasities, but happy to see the return of Alexa Stewart, who used to work with us 10 years ago. Welcome back to Alexa & good luck Janet with pastures new!

This year will be a busy one for Taiko in the UK, with a concert tour by the hugely dynamic Yamato drummers from Japan ([www.yamato.jp](http://www.yamato.jp)) and a return to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival by Art Lee and his group Tokara, performing at the C Venue. ([www.tokara.net](http://www.tokara.net))

We have an exciting diary ahead. In between the two upcoming tours, we have a trip to Bahrain to perform at the Formula One motor race, as well as various events in Europe and summer festival performances by both Mugenkyo and the Dojo Performance Team.

Please do sign up for our email newsletter to get more regular updates throughout the year, either on our website, or by sending an email to [info@taiko.co.uk](mailto:info@taiko.co.uk).

**We hope to see you at a concert or workshop this year!**

## TAIKO DRUMFEST CONCERT

All of the Dojo members back at base during the Way of the Drum tour will be displaying their skills at the Taiko Drumfest concert, an extravaganza of rhythm & energy.

The participants of the East Kilbride Taiko Alba Project will also be performing a short guest spot as part of the concert.

**Tue 5th March East Kilbride Village Theatre 7:30 pm**  
**£14 / £9 01355 261 000 [www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk](http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk)**



# THE WAY OF THE DRUM SPRING 2013 TOUR

On "The Way of the Drum" we return to the roots of Taiko. This tour will see new material gathered from our 2012 study trip to Japan and introduce new arrangements of classic pieces. Discover the secrets of this ancient art: how the instruments are made, the traditional festivals, legends & mythical characters.



## FEBRUARY 2013

<b>M 25</b>	<b>ELGIN</b>	St Christopher's Chapel, Gordonstoun School		<a href="http://www.hubtickets.co.uk">www.hubtickets.co.uk</a>
<b>Tu 26</b>	<b>STIRLING</b>	The Tolbooth	01786 274 000	<a href="http://www.stirling.gov.uk/tolbooth">www.stirling.gov.uk/tolbooth</a>
<b>W 27</b>	<b>AIRDRIE</b>	Airdrie Town Hall	01698 403 120	<a href="http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/entertainment">www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/entertainment</a>
<b>Th 28</b>	<b>RICHMOND, N. YORKS</b>	The Georgian Theatre Royal	01748 825 252	<a href="http://www.georgiantheatroyal.co.uk">www.georgiantheatroyal.co.uk</a>

## MARCH 2013

<b>Fr 1</b>	<b>BURTON ON TRENT</b>	The Brewhouse	01283 508 100	<a href="http://www.brewhouse.co.uk">www.brewhouse.co.uk</a>
<b>Sa 2</b>	<b>PWLLHELI</b>	Neuadd Dwyfor	01758 704 088	<a href="http://www.gwynedd.gov.uk/neuadd-dwyfor">www.gwynedd.gov.uk/neuadd-dwyfor</a>
<b>W 6</b>	<b>BRAINTREE</b>	Braintree Arts Theatre	01376 556 354	<a href="http://www.braintreeartstheatre.com">www.braintreeartstheatre.com</a>
<b>Th 7</b>	<b>STROUD</b>	Subscription Rooms	01453 760 900	<a href="http://www.subscriptionrooms.org.uk">www.subscriptionrooms.org.uk</a>
<b>Fr 8</b>	<b>HAVERHILL</b>	Haverhill Arts Centre	01440 714 140	<a href="http://www.haverhillartscentre.co.uk">www.haverhillartscentre.co.uk</a>
<b>Sa 9</b>	<b>CHATHAM</b>	The Brook Theatre	01634 338 338	<a href="http://www.medwayticketslive.co.uk">www.medwayticketslive.co.uk</a>
<b>Su 10</b>	<b>BRADFORD ON AVON</b>	Wiltshire Music Centre	01225 860 100	<a href="http://www.wiltshiremusic.org.uk">www.wiltshiremusic.org.uk</a>
<b>W 13</b>	<b>GAINSBOROUGH</b>	Trinity Arts Centre	01427 676 655	<a href="http://www.trinityarts.co.uk">www.trinityarts.co.uk</a>
<b>Th 14</b>	<b>YORK</b>	National Centre for Early Music	01904 658 338	<a href="http://www.ncem.co.uk">www.ncem.co.uk</a>
<b>Fr 15</b>	<b>COCKERMOUTH</b>	Kirkgate Theatre	01900 826 448	<a href="http://www.thekirkgate.com">www.thekirkgate.com</a>

# MUGENKYO CONCERT MAY 2013 TOUR

On the road again in May, presenting completely different repertoire in a completely different context - this time bigger scale and more modern, focussing purely on the music.

We will be releasing a new CD & DVD timed with the start of this tour: our fourth album which will include tracks recorded live in Japan. The album will also feature our original teacher Masaaki Kurumaya Sensei & special guest Nobuko Miyazaki from New York. Watch this space!



## MAY 2013

<b>W 1</b>	<b>HAMILTON</b>	Town House	01698 452 299	<a href="http://www.sllcboxoffice.co.uk">www.sllcboxoffice.co.uk</a>
<b>Th 2</b>	<b>ABERDEEN</b>	Music Hall	01224 641 122	<a href="http://www.boxofficeaberdeen.co.uk">www.boxofficeaberdeen.co.uk</a>
<b>Fr 3</b>	<b>AYR</b>	Town Hall	01292 269 793	<a href="http://www.ticketweb.co.uk">www.ticketweb.co.uk</a>
<b>Sa 4</b>	<b>ARBROATH</b>	Webster Memorial Theatre	01241 435 800	<a href="http://www.webstertheatre.co.uk">www.webstertheatre.co.uk</a>
<b>Tu 7</b>	<b>BOLTON</b>	Albert Halls	01204 334 400	<a href="http://www.alberthalls-bolton.org">www.alberthalls-bolton.org</a>
<b>W 8</b>	<b>LEICESTER</b>	De Montfort Hall	01162 333 111	<a href="http://www.demontforthall.co.uk">www.demontforthall.co.uk</a>
<b>Th 9</b>	<b>BIRMINGHAM</b>	Town Hall	01213 450 600	<a href="http://www.thsh.co.uk">www.thsh.co.uk</a>
<b>Fr 10</b>	<b>WESTON SUPER MARE</b>	The Playhouse	01934 645 544	<a href="http://www.theplayhouse.co.uk">www.theplayhouse.co.uk</a>
<b>Sa 11</b>	<b>ILFRACOMBE</b>	Landmark Theatre	01271 324 242	<a href="http://www.northdevontheatres.org.uk">www.northdevontheatres.org.uk</a>
<b>Su 12</b>	<b>EXMOUTH</b>	The Pavillion	01395 222 477	<a href="http://www.ledleisure.co.uk/index/exmouth_pavillion">www.ledleisure.co.uk/index/exmouth_pavillion</a>
<b>Tu 14</b>	<b>NEATH</b>	Gwyn Hall	03003 656 677	<a href="http://www.gwynhall.co.uk">www.gwynhall.co.uk</a>
<b>W 15</b>	<b>TAUNTON</b>	The Brewhouse	01823 283 244	<a href="http://www.thebrewhouse.net">www.thebrewhouse.net</a>
<b>Th 16</b>	<b>SOUTHSEA</b>	Kings Theatre	02392 828 282	<a href="http://www.kings-southsea.com">www.kings-southsea.com</a>
<b>Fr 17</b>	<b>HORSHAM</b>	The Capitol	01403 750 220	<a href="http://www.thecapitolhorsham.com">www.thecapitolhorsham.com</a>
<b>Sa 18</b>	<b>LEAMINGTON SPA</b>	Royal Spa Centre	01926 334 418	<a href="http://www.royalspacentreandtownhall.co.uk">www.royalspacentreandtownhall.co.uk</a>
<b>Su 19</b>	<b>WELWYN GARDEN CITY</b>	Hawthorne Theatre	01707 357 117	<a href="http://www.hawthornetheatre.co.uk">www.hawthornetheatre.co.uk</a>
<b>Tu 21</b>	<b>DERBY</b>	Assembly Rooms	01332 255 800	<a href="http://www.derbylive.co.uk">www.derbylive.co.uk</a>
<b>W 22</b>	<b>HALIFAX</b>	Victoria Theatre	01422 351 158	<a href="http://www.victoriatheatre.co.uk">www.victoriatheatre.co.uk</a>
<b>Th 23</b>	<b>STOCKPORT</b>	The Plaza	01614 777 779	<a href="http://www.stockportplaza.co.uk">www.stockportplaza.co.uk</a>
<b>Fr 24</b>	<b>LYTHAM ST ANNES</b>	Lowther Pavillion	01253 794 221	<a href="http://www.lowtherpavillion.co.uk">www.lowtherpavillion.co.uk</a>

## NEW-FORMAT INTRODUCTORY WEEKENDS AT THE DOJO

Our new-format introductory weekend workshops have been hugely popular. Learn the basics & try out different styles, including a short introduction to the Odaiko big drum. All our recent workshops have been full, so book soon to share the experience!

Dates: Sat 20 / Sun 21 April - fully booked  
 Sat 1 / Sun 2 June - just a few spaces left  
 Sat 7 / Sun 8 September  
 Sat 9 / Sun 10 November

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

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



## TAIKO ALBA COURSE & PERFORMANCE PROJECT

The Edinburgh Taiko Alba was a big success & their performance went down a storm at the Edinburgh Mela last year (pictured). Projects in East Kilbride & Stirling are now in full swing, culminating in performances at the EK Village Theatre & Stirling Tolbooth Arts Centre. Taiko Alba is a project for 16-25 year olds - an opportunity to learn with Mugenkyo, leading to a performance.

Thanks to funding received from Creative Scotland, the taster sessions and course are completely free of charge to participants.

Sign up now for the Glasgow Taiko Alba, which will be starting 8 May.

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



## GLASGOW & EDINBURGH COURSES

We have a new set of Glasgow & Edinburgh courses starting on Wednesday 27 March, which will become a more regular ongoing event in both cities.

Contact us to find out more:  
 01357 522 008 / info@taiko.co.uk

## MAIL ORDER MERCHANDISE



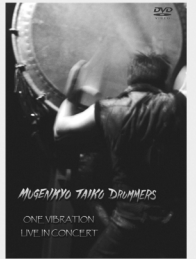
### MUGENKYO DVD'S

#### "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



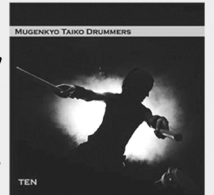
### MUGENKYO CD'S

#### "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.



#### "MUGENKYO"

Recorded in 1997.  
 Pure energy music!

### MUGENKYO T-SHIRT

Limited Edition  
 Black & white photo with green & yellow writing on high quality black T-shirt.  
 Sizes: XXL, XL, L, M, S



Front label



Large design on back

## 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

"Celebration" ~~£18~~ £15 \_\_\_\_\_

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

MUGENKYO T-SHIRT £20 \_\_\_\_\_ size: \_\_\_\_\_

Available: XXL, XL, L, M, S

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

All prices include packaging and postage within the UK.

Please allow 14 days delivery.

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