

TAIKO TAIKO

ISSUE 46

SUMMER 2013



ANNOUNCING THE RELEASE OF OUR FOURTH CD & THIRD DVD!

We are excited to announce the official release of two brand new recordings: new CD "Eternal Return" & new DVD "Document Live". Both recordings are available at our concerts & our online shop.

The CD "Eternal Return" features two very special guests. At the end of 2012, original teacher of Mugenkyo, Masaaki Kurumaya Sensei came to the UK to perform a joint concert. Three of these pieces have been selected for the CD, which range from the very traditional "Fukui no Taiko", which showcases the roots of the Fukui style, to the improvised "Alchemy", which explores new territory with a fusion between taiko, electronic "wave drum" and flute. In addition to being the acknowledged master of the Fukui style, Kurumaya Sensei is a great innovator, and has pioneered a range of collaborations throughout his 40-year career.

"Eternal Return" also features wonderful flautist Nobuko Miyazaki, who toured with Mugenkyo in 2011 and 2012. This recording features Nobuko on both the western flute and shinobue bamboo flute. Her ethereal sounds fit the Mugenkyo style perfectly - a collaboration which we enjoyed tremendously & was very popular with our audiences.

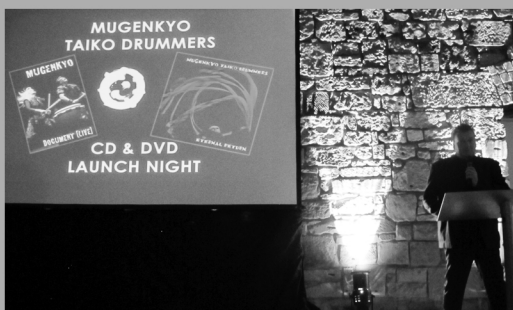
Earlier in the year Mugenkyo toured Japan, and two of the performances were recorded for this CD, one of which was the "Extasia Festival", where Mugenkyo was the first European group to be invited to perform at this prestigious event - a platform for the very best professional groups in Japan. The Mugenkyo performance was rapturously received, and was a seminal event in Mugenkyo history, which has been captured for this CD. The other performance featured on the CD is a concert in Fukui, where Mackie & Miyuki first trained, celebrating the 20-year relationship with Masaaki Kurumaya Sensei.

Our new DVD - "Document Live" is jam-packed with exciting concert footage from our 2012 autumn tour, and also features the special guest Nobuko Miyazaki. For a taste of the new DVD, have a look at our brand new promotional video on our website: www.taiko.co.uk

Track listing:

- Belenos** - Classic opener from the show, starting with quiet percussive sounds, voice and a powerful heartbeat, building to a dramatic climax.
- Nagareboshi** - Movements representing a shooting star
- Shibu-Rokku** - Featuring jazzy middle-east inspired melodies on the western flute by Nobuko, megaphone poetry and Barry's expressive gong, driven by Mackie's shiburoku beat.
- Fudoshin** - a two-girl Odaiko big drum piece, with Shonagh & Miyuki performing this physically challenging style
- Chronos** - Masked characters with streamers glow in the UV light, accompanied by atmospheric music
- Tomoe** - Three drummers play between four drums, in a highly choreographed style
- Hibiki** - Fukui style improvised solos & cross-hands "tsunami kaeshi" style.
- Ushioi Uta** - a beautiful shinobue bamboo flute solo by Nobuko
- Odaiko** - Mackie's inimitable big drum solo
- Uchiwahaha** - Comedy featuring funny-man Joao, with Barry & Martin
- Shichisan Stomp** - Upbeat piece featuring the Uchiwa hand-held drums
- Todoroki** - 3-Odaiko big drum version of the "big rumble"
- Yatai Bayashi** - Stomach-crunching traditional style.

CD & DVD LAUNCH



We were thrilled to see so many taiko fans & Mugenkyo supporters at our packed launch night at the Glasgow Lighthouse. Thank you for coming & supporting Mugenkyo through the years!

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

"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"



A BUSY SEASON AT THE MUGEN CAMP: DRUMFEST, FORMULA ONE & MORE!

All of our Dojo members excelled themselves at the Taiko Drumfest in March, displaying their skills to an enthusiastic audience at the East Kilbride Theatre. It was a truly memorable evening, with the unveiling of new choreography with five drummers performing with streamers, an all-girl Yatai Bayashi, Shakuhachi with Nihon Buyo dance, and a special guest spot from the East Kilbride Taiko Alba.



Taiko Drumfest

At the same time, the professional team was out on the road on the March "Way of the Drum" tour. For one of the concerts, they were joined by the Stirling Taiko Alba participants, who performed a short guest spot as the culmination of a teaching project. Halfway through the tour we also performed at Windsor Castle. The flag flying indicated that her Majesty was in residence, however no sight was to be seen of Liz, although no doubt the reverberations of the taiko drums resounded throughout the Castle and kept her feet tapping!

Meanwhile back at our base - the Mugen Taiko Dojo - we had a visit by "Byre Rhythm" for a masterclass with Miyuki. Based in St. Andrew's, the group have just celebrated their 10-year anniversary. Despite being the taiko group for over 50's, Byre Rhythm challenged the Miyake style of playing, proving that age is no barrier to energetic taiko playing!

In April, Mugenkyo performed at the Bahrain Formula One Grand Prix. With temperatures soaring to 40 degrees on the track, performing in the heat was quite a challenge, with several sets a day on different stages throughout the site. The performances were so popular we were asked to choreograph a finale for the awards ceremony, timed to fit perfectly with the proceedings, and televised live on Sky Sports to millions of viewers.

May and the team were on tour again, this time with the larger Mugenkyo show for a 20-date tour, introducing a new electronic instrument - the wave drum, which provided a moody landscape for the stage show. The team were joined for five of the concerts by group co-founder Miyuki Williams, who has recently taken a break from touring - a welcome return to the Mugenkyo touring lineup!

June saw the conclusion of our "Taiko Alba" project, with the fourth & final group performing onstage at the Glasgow Mela Festival. The teaching & performance project introduced the art of taiko drumming to a new group of young people in Edinburgh, Stirling, East Kilbride & Glasgow, in a project supported by Creative Scotland.

MUGENKYO CONCERT AUTUMN 2013 UK TOUR

Large scale concert with the full array of huge drums, fresh from the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

SEPTEMBER

Fr 27	DUNFERMLINE	Carnegie Hall
Sa 28	BILLINGHAM	Forum Theatre
Su 29	KESWICK	Theatre By The Lake

OCTOBER

Tu 1	RUNCORN	The Brindley
We 2	CHELTENHAM	Town Hall
Th 3	WORTHING	Pavilion Theatre
Fr 4	BOURNEMOUTH	Bournemouth Pier
Sa 5	ISLE OF WIGHT	Shanklin Theatre
Su 6	EASTLEIGH	The Point
Tu 8	RADLETT	The Radlett Centre
We 9	BURY ST EDMUNDS	The Apex
Th 10	LICHFIELD	Lichfield Garrick
Fr 11	BRECON	Theatr Brycheiniog
Sa 12	CAERNARFON	Galeri
Su 13	DURHAM	The Gala Theatre
Tu 15	SOLIHULL	Solihull Arts Complex
We 16	HODDESDON	Broxbourne Civic Hall
Th 17	CHESTERFIELD	The Winding Wheel
Fr 18	MANCHESTER	Sale Waterside Arts Centre
Sa 19	BERWICK UPON TWEED	The Maltings Theatre

MUGENKYO AT THE EDINBURGH FRINGE

We are excited to announce that Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers will be performing a full festival run at the prestigious Assembly George Square Theatre at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. We will be presenting the very best of Mugenkyo repertoire, in a specially designed Fringe show with a specially expanded team and a few surprises.

Daily 12:30pm 1st - 26th August (not 12th 19th)



“THE WAY OF THE DRUM” - NOVEMBER 2013 TOUR

Introducing the wide variety of taiko traditions, in an intimate & engaging concert. See Taiko up close & personal.

W 20	GREAT YARMOUTH	Saint Georges Theatre	01493 331 484	www.stgeorgestheatre.com
Sa 23	HEMEL HEMPSTEAD	Old Town Hall	01442 228 091	www.oldtownhall.co.uk
Tu 26	SOUTHAMPTON	Turner Sims Concert Hall	023 8059 5151	www.turnersims.co.uk
W 27	MINEHEAD	Regal Theatre	01643 706 430	www.regaltheatre.co.uk
Th 28	BURNLEY	Burnley Mechanics	01282 664 400	www.burnleymechanics.co.uk
Fr 29	BOWNESS ON WINDERMERE	The Old Laundry	08445 040 604	www.oldlaundrytheatre.co.uk
Sa 30	ALNWICK	Alnwick Playhouse	01665 510 785	www.alnwickplayhouse.co.uk

We are excited to welcome Jon McCall to the team, who joins the office, helping to keep the Mugen Machine running like a highly co-ordinated military operation!

We are now in preparations for the upcoming Edinburgh Fringe run, and have been rehearsing new material to unveil with a specially expanded lineup for the show. Performing 6 nights a week from 1-26 August, the team will be well-honed & ready for their autumn tour, which starts 3 weeks later, with 23 concerts of the larger “Mugenkyo Taiko Drummers” show. We will also bring the more intimate “Way of Drum” show this autumn, concluding our busy year with two further weeks on the road in November.

We look forward to seeing you in Edinburgh, or for one of our autumn tours!



Taiko Alba in Stirling

INTRODUCTORY WEEKEND WORKSHOPS AT THE DOJO

Come to the home & base of Mugenkyo, meet the team, and learn directly from Mugenkyo members, starting with the basics & trying out different styles of playing, including a short introduction to the Odaiko big drum. Every workshop this year has been full, so book soon!



Sat 7 / Sun 8 Sept - full
OR Sat 9 / Sun 10 Nov

£180 non-residential
(contact us for residential)

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

FOLLOW-ON WEEKEND WORKSHOPS AT THE DOJO

We know many of you have been waiting a while for more follow-on weekends - finally we've found time in our busy schedule to re-start them. We've lined up a series of workshops introducing traditional & classic pieces, which will run throughout next year, dates tbc.

The first workshop we will run will be an intensive course introducing "Mugen-Do", the Mugen style of playing, which has been honed over 20 years. This is mainly based on the Fukui style learned by Neil & Miyuki during their 2 years of training with Masaaki Kurumaya Sensei, and further developed through training with a range of the top taiko masters, and through years of professional touring. Contact us for full details: 01357 522 008 / info@taiko.co.uk

Dates: Sat 16 / Sun 17 November

GLASGOW & EDINBURGH COURSES

We now have semi-permanent bases in Glasgow & Edinburgh, with courses running throughout the year. We have a set of teaching drums in Glasgow at Headhunters Studios, Kinning Park, and in Edinburgh at Verden Studios, Portobello, with Wednesday nights set aside for courses for the general public. Please do contact us if you'd like to join a regular teaching group, develop your technique or learn more repertoire. The course can also be a stepping stone to joining our Dojo Performance Team.

More info: 01357 522 008 / info@taiko.co.uk

"TARTAN TAIKO" EXHIBITION

An installation presenting the Mugen Taiko Dojo, Mugenkyo and the art of taiko drumming, the first of its kind in the UK.

The exhibition will run from 5th to 28th September in the gallery space at the East Kilbride Arts Centre. On Wednesday 4th September, 7pm, we will be celebrating the opening night with a special performance by members of the Mugen Taiko Dojo.

MAIL ORDER MERCHANDISE

MUGENKYO DVD'S



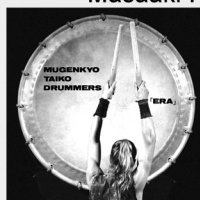
"DOCUMENT LIVE"

Our latest DVD with one hour of Mugenkyo classics: Tomoe, Todoroki, Odaiko, Shichisan Stomp etc. with special guest Nobuko Miyazaki on flute.

MUGENKYO CD'S

"ETERNAL RETURN"

Recorded in 2012 - with special guests Masaaki Kurumaya & Nobuko Miyazaki plus live tracks from our Japan tour



"ERA"

Recorded in 2009 - both traditional and modern



"MUGENKYO"

Recorded in 1997. Pure energy music!

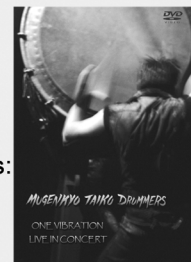
"TEN"

Recorded in 2004 - big taiko stompers & bamboo flute.



"CELEBRATION"

15th Anniversary concert with special guests Lale Sayoko, Liz Walters & Mark Alcock



"ONE VIBRATION LIVE IN CONCERT"

Our 2006 concert



MUGENKYO T-SHIRT

B&W photo with green & yellow writing on black T.



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)

MUGENKYO CD's

"Eternal Return" _____ £15
"Era" _____ £12
"Ten" _____ £12
"Mugenkyo" _____ £12

MUGENKYO DVD's

"Document Live" _____ £20
"Celebration" _____ £15
"One Vibration" _____ £10

MUGENKYO T-SHIRT £20

Available: XXL, XL, L, M, S

size: _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____ All prices include packaging & postage within the UK. Please allow 14 days delivery. Please make cheques payable to: **MTD Productions Ltd.**

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