

TAIKO TAIKO

ISSUE 48

AUTUMN 2014

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS WITH TWO AUTUMN TOURS

Hello everyone & welcome to our anniversary! It's been a quiet year for us here at Mugen Taiko, with total performing days in 2014 barely touching 90 (!) rather than the usual 100+. In our anniversary year we have been mainly concentrating on preparations for the next 20 year cycle, with building work to upgrade the Dojo itself for a new programme of training and public workshops here at our base, filming for a new set of promotional videos, plus training new players behind the scenes, who you will see onstage in the coming years. This autumn we return to our usual busy touring schedule, with two autumn tours. We hope you will join us!

MUGENKYO CONCERT TOUR -- OCTOBER 2014

Mugenkyo will be back out on the road again this week, celebrating 20 years since our first performance in the UK. It's an exciting time, with a return to the touring line-up of founding member Miyuki Williams after a gap of three and a half years since her last full tour. Her two new young boys will be part of the touring entourage, but don't expect to see them on stage quite yet!

The concert will include new material as well as old classics, and will celebrate the original partnership between Miyuki & Neil Mackie which started Mugenkyo on it's path. Join us in our celebration!



Tu 7	MANCHESTER	Royal Northern College of Music	0161 907 5555	www.rncm.ac.uk
We 8	BROMSGROVE	Artrix	01527 577 330	www.artrix.co.uk
Th 9	PETERBOROUGH	Key Theatre	01733 207 239	www.peterboroughkeytheatre.co.uk
Fr 10	TAUNTON	Queen's Hall Quartz Festival	01823 340 829	www.quartzfestival.org.uk
Sa 11	TEWKESBURY	Roses Theatre	01684 295 074	www.roses theatre.org
Tu 14	KETTERING	Lighthouse Theatre	01536 414 141	www.lighthousetheatre.co.uk
We 15	WEYMOUTH	Pavilion	01305 783225	www.weymouthpavilion.com
Th 16	SWANSEA	Grand Theatre	01792 475 715	www.swanseagrand.co.uk
Fr 17	TUNBRIDGE WELLS	Trinity Theatre	01892 678 678	www.trinitytheatre.net
Su 19	IPSWICH	New Wolsey Theatre	01473 295 900	www.wolseytheatre.co.uk
Tu 21	NORWICH	Open	01603 763 111	www.open247.org.uk
We 22	BARNSLEY	The Civic	01226 327 000	www.barnsleycivic.co.uk
Th 23	LANCASTER	Grand Theatre	01524 64695	www.lancastergrand.co.uk
Fr 24	GREENOCK	Beacon Arts Centre	01475 723 723	www.beaconartscentre.co.uk
Sa 25	MUSSELBURGH	The Brunton	0131 665 2240	www.thebrunton.co.uk

“THE WAY OF THE DRUM” TOUR -- NOVEMBER 2014

This show is a celebration of traditional Taiko Drumming, as a contrast to our modern “Mugenkyo” show. Explore the history, the traditional styles in a show which reveals all the secrets of taiko!

M 24	NOTTINGHAM	Nottingham Lakeside Arts	0115 846 7777	www.lakesidearts.org.uk
Tu 25	WARWICK	Bridge House Theatre	01926 776 438	www.bridgehousetheatre.co.uk
W 26	CARDIGAN	Theatr Mwldan	01239 621 200	www.mwldan.co.uk
Th 27	BUILTH WELLS	Wyeside Arts Centre	01982 552 555	www.wyeside.co.uk
Sa 29	LANARK	Memorial Hall	01555 667 999	www.sllcboxoffice.co.uk

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.

MTD

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ML11 OWA

U.K.

www.taiko.co.uk

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"



DOJO DEPARTURES

We bid a sad goodbye to long-standing Dojo members Debbie Dewar & Steve Fitch, who have been pillars in the Dojo community over the last decade. You will be missed!



We would also like to bid bon voyage to Lynn Tonner who has been an integral part of the Mugen team behind the scenes for the last 8 years, as well as one of our regular performers in the Dojo team.

In her time here she has helped elevate the organisation to ever greater heights. We wish her well on her move to Scottish Opera - she will continue to be close to our hearts.



DOJO GROWING BIGGER & BETTER!

We have started work on a new entrance for the Dojo, to give more space in the reception area, as well as a boiler room for a new biomass heating system as we continue on our green energy mission - here is a sneak preview of the work taking place.

This year already we have installed a ground source heat pump for one area of the property and two wind turbines (see last newsletter), and in the coming winter we plan further renovations to propel the Dojo into the next era of expansion of our activities here. Exciting times ahead!



NEWSLETTER BACK ISSUES

You can now view or download all of the back issues of this newsletter on our website, spanning right back to our first issue back in 1996. All back issues of our e-newsletter are also available - look in the "news" section of www.taiko.co.uk



OFFICE VACANCY

We now have a vacancy in the Mugen Taiko office for an arts administrator. Join a vibrant arts company, bringing the joy of taiko drumming to thousands through hard work & dedication.

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

HEADLINES FROM THE MUGEN TAIKO REPUBLIC!

In May following a successful 16-date tour up & down the UK, Mugenkyo were delighted to perform at the Wataniya Festival in Kuwait, in front of thousands of screaming Kuwaiti teens, along with English-Irish boy band "The Wanted". It was a spring season of jet-setting, also visiting the wonderful Festival Dell'Oriente in Milan for an 8 day festival spread over 2 long weekends, performing for a total of 48 times!

In June we had the pleasure of welcoming Byre Rhythm back to the Dojo for their annual masterclass. This time the over 50's group faced the challenge of the Odaiko, with a special practice piece taught for the huge Odaiko big drum.

In August the team were stars for an evening on Scottish TV's the Riverside Show, as we showcased our weekly taiko courses. Check out <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SE-MqUZxvM8>

Also in August we had a visit to the Dojo from the Japan Marvelous Drummers, a.k.a. Kawasuji Taiko, who were performing a 3-week run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival this year. Based in Kyushu and hugely popular in Brazil, the group wow-ed the Fringe audiences, converting yet more people to Taiko. Our Dojo members were treated to an impromptu performance up close & personal, and we all joined in with a short festival rhythm together before enjoying a tippie together here at the Dojo.

In September we spent a very productive day filming our performance team, creating new promo videos which will be available soon.

September of course was the historic independence referendum, which split our Dojo citizens down the middle. We already think of the Dojo as a kind of independent republic anyway. But don't worry, you won't need your passports to visit the Dojo next year!



SUMMER OF DOJO TEAM PERFORMANCES

Our Dojo Performance Team have enjoyed a packed summer, playing up and down the country at a host of festivals and events. They brought some much needed encouragement to the soaked runners at the Edinburgh Marathon, provided a fittingly thunderous backing to the tractors and cattle at the Dalkeith Show, and were privileged to bring down the curtain at Glasgow's West-End Festival in the newly opened Kelvingrove Bandstand.

Their last performance of the summer at Irvine Harbourside Festival in August saw the team battling the elements again, and cheering on the courageous Dragon boat racers!

In Sat 5 November the team will be displaying their skills at the Edinburgh Auchinawa - an event for manga freaks and cosplay fanatics!



INTRODUCTORY WEEKEND WORKSHOPS AT THE DOJO

Experience Taiko as our professionals do - here at our tranquil Dojo in the rolling hills of Lanarkshire. Join us for our weekend introduction to this ancient art-form - next available dates are in spring. Beginning with the fundamentals, the stance and the grip, progressing step-by-step over the course of the weekend, the participants will learn the three main jiuchi base rhythms of taiko, with an opportunity to try out the various instruments and playing styles.

Sat 9 / Sun 10 Nov - full
OR Sat 7 / Sun 8 March
OR Sat 18 / Sun 19 April

£190 non-residential (contact us for residential)
Further details: 01357 522 008 / info@taiko.co.uk



DROP IN FOR A TASTER SESSION IN GLASGOW OR EDINBURGH

Our popular Taiko Night courses have moved to a new Monday night slot in Glasgow and Edinburgh for the autumn season, and we are also now offering one-off taster sessions at the beginning of each course series, focussing on the fundamentals of technique. The next tasters & courses will begin in early January. Further details: 01357 522 008 / info@taiko.co.uk

DOJO AUDITIONS

It's that time of year when we're looking for the next generation of star performers. In the first week of December we will be holding auditions for joining the Dojo training programme and performance team - open to anyone who has been learning taiko and wants to step up to the next level. Further details: 01357 522 008 / info@taiko.co.uk

BATHGATE DRUMFEST

The full Dojo gang will be out in force at the Bathgate Regal in November with a special show featuring all the players at the Dojo. Join us for a festival of drumming at our annual Drumfest!

Fri 14 Nov Bathgate Regal
Theatre 01506 630085



MAIL ORDER MERCHANDISE

MUGENKYO 20th ANNIVERSARY T

White & purple design on a black Fair Trade T-shirt.



MUGENKYO DVD'S



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



"ONE VIBRATION LIVE IN CONCERT"
Our 2006 concert



"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 & modern

"TEN"
Recorded in 2004 - big taiko stompers & bamboo flute.



"MUGENKYO"
Recorded in 1997. Pure energy music!

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 £15 _____ size: _____
Available: XXL, XL, L, M, S

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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