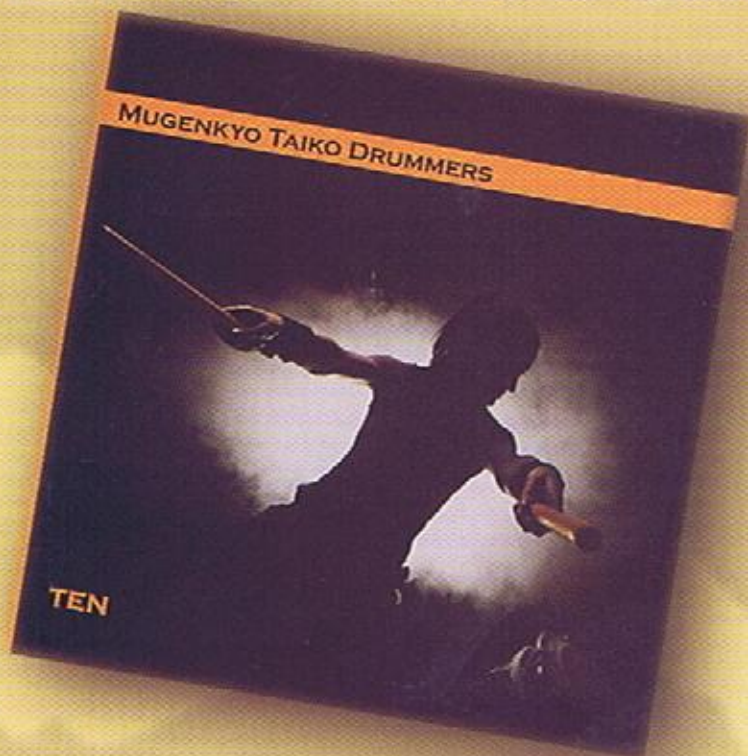


NEW MUGENKYO CD!!



At long last we have recorded our second album, called TEN - thank you to all of you who've been waiting so long for this (7 years to be exact)! The CD is very diverse, with thundering taiko pieces, the big odaiko drum, shinobue flute, and many different kinds of gongs and percussion. There is even a song, chanting and didgeridoo - a very varied and distinctive taiko CD. We decided to use the studio to create a different kind of sound to the one we usually have live. We like it very much and hope you will too...

Most of July and early August was spent preparing, rehearsing and recording. We recorded the album in two different studios in Glasgow. The bulk of the album was recorded at CaVa Studios, which was the only studio we could fit the Odaiko big drum into. CaVa is a converted church, and the main studios are in the basement. By running the leads into the church itself, we were able to record the Odaiko in the church, making use of the excellent acoustics. However, first we had to overcome the problem of getting the Odaiko to the church: the downstairs double doors were just a few centimetres too small. So, we carried the Odaiko up the stairs to the balcony, took the doors off the hinges to squeeze the drum in, made a harness for the drum, lifted the drum over the pews, then hoisted it over the balcony, lowering it down with ropes. Two hours later the drum was finally safely in the church - a heart stopping process! We recorded some sections in the studio downstairs, and others in the church itself, in fact on 'Mirage', the shime drum was placed in the pulpit, for maximum projection! We also discovered a ghost on the album. The Odaiko on 'The Search' was recorded at night in the church, and Neil and Teresa ventured up there together, playing in the dark as there were no lights in the church. At the time there wasn't anybody else in the room, however, afterwards, listening back to the recording, we could definitely hear footsteps and creaking doors, which is still on the recording. At CaVa we recorded the thunderous 'Todoroki', which means 'big rumble', and also 'Phoenix', which is one of the highlights of the live concert. Here we also recorded 'Wheel of Samsara', a piece which incorporates both an ancient Buddhist chant and a traditional Scottish folksong, a very eclectic mixture. We spent four days in total at CaVa, recording and mixing - many thanks to engineers Jeff and Dave for all their hard work.

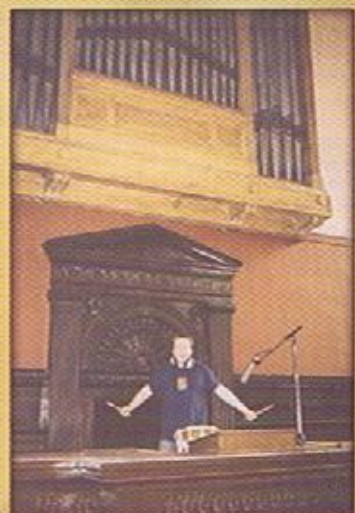
Three of the tracks were recorded at Core Studios, as we were keen to work with Larry Primrose, the engineer at Core, as he had a lot of experience with Reggae and dub, working with artists such as Mikey Dread. We had an idea to use dub effects on one of our tracks, and Larry was the person for the job. On 'Declaration of Rhythm' you'll hear the results. We recorded two other tracks at Core: 'Shichisan Groove' and 'Procession', taking three days to record and mix these tracks. 'Shichisan Groove' is a very modern take on the 'shichisan' rhythm, a taiko track you can dance to. 'Procession' is a very happy piece using the hand held uchiwa drums and Teresa's beautiful shinobue flute. Then with the master CD in hand, Neil set off on a day trip from Glasgow to London, leaving on the first train in the morning and returning on the last train at night, for the mastering at Hiltongrove Studios, and the music was complete. Meanwhile the artwork was being finished off back at base, designed by Teresa with Adam completing the final touches - a great designing team. As a bonus, for those of you who have been asking us for a video of the group, on the CD there is also a series of short clips from the Mugenkyo show (C.D-rom format), filmed and edited by Tom Walker during our May tour this year.



Teresa and her alter ego rehearsing at the dojo



Adam and Miyuki practice the art of cheese rolling at Core



Neil conducts the choir with his big organ



Miyuki 'Rambo' Williams recording at CaVa



Mixin' it at CaVa



NOTICE BOARD

LAST INTRODUCTORY WEEKEND WORKSHOP 2004

We've managed to squeeze in one weekend in October, thanks to a last minute cancellation of a performance - this will be the last introductory workshop this year. Suitable for beginners, the workshop begins with the stance and 'bachi' grip and progresses step by step through the weekend, learning a piece from the west coast of Japan.

DATE: 30/31 October

PRICE: £110 non residential rate (inc lunch on Sat and Sun)

Residential packages available, details on request

For an info pack: 01357 522 008 or mail@taikodojo.com

DOJO OUTREACH

Teresa and Adam were extremely busy this summer with Dojo outreach educational projects all over the country, spending a week each in Bristol, Leeds and Warrington. The workshops in Leeds led to a performance at the Leeds playhouse by the students, as part of the Breeze Youth Festival. The students at Warrington performed at the Warrington Pyramid Centre at a Japan Day. Well done to all of the students involved - it's great to see so many schools taiko groups springing up all over the country.



Howzat!? Students from West Leeds High School perform at the Breeze Festival



Shime tying practice for Project Taiko at the dojo

TAIKO DOJO SHOWCASE 2004

29th October - Gilmorehill G12, Glasgow - 7.30pm £10 / £8
Showcase from the gang at the Mugen Taiko Dojo. The Project Taiko drummers, joined by members of Mugenkyo, bring you the huge Japanese drums, over twenty drummers, thunderous rhythms and raw energy, into the BIG BANG!
Box Office: 0141 330 5522

We'd like to express our gratitude to the GB Sasakawa Foundation and also the Nippon Taiko Foundation for their generous support of this project.



Sir Hamilton Blantyre, the Dojo-based gentleman taiko player, playing a fantastic hand-crafted miniature taiko drum carved out of English elm, with goatskin hide. It was made especially for us by Tony Smart from the Isle of Wight.

PROJECT TAIKO



We will be running another Project Taiko series this winter for 18 - 26 year olds: auditions in November.
Contact: 01357 522 008 or mail@taikodojo.com and ask for a 'Project Taiko' info pack.

WOTTA LOTTA TAIKO!

Our May tour kicked off with a bank holiday 3-day run at the Blackpool Pleasure Beach - a domed theatre with a circular stage which lit up from underneath. It was a strange experience, as the bells and chimes of our quieter numbers were interspersed with screams and yells from the rides outside. The rest of the tour consisted of more traditional theatres: highlights included Lancaster Grand, Bedford Corn Exchange, Newbury Corn Exchange, Barnstaple Queen's Theatre ... part of a very full four weeks. In Cardigan in the depths of west Wales, we had the pleasure of performing in the brand new Theatr Mwldan, still smelling of plush new seats and fresh paintwork.

In June the festival season started with a performance at the North Glasgow International Festival - an oasis of multicultural activity, performance and talent amongst the notorious boarded up high-rise flats of Sighthill, Glasgow. We had the pleasure of being joined by the Project Taiko drummers, our trainees at the Dojo, who stormed the stage with their enthusiasm and energy. Another summer highlight was the outdoor concert at Beverley High School. A stage and PA were set up especially in the school grounds, in preparation for the evening concert. But as the evening approached the heavens opened and it literally bucketed with rain, accompanied by peals of thunder and lightning. The tent set up for our equipment backstage collapsed under the weight of the rainwater, and we all had to take refuge on the stage itself - the only dry spot! Nevertheless, the concert went ahead as planned and several hundred people watched the show beneath their umbrellas, setting up their picnics despite the weather. In Blackburn at another rainy festival, we shared the bill with Voulez Vous, an ABBA tribute group, and Rolf Harris - what a combination!

As we write this, we are in the middle of a run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, performing two different shows every day: 'The Way of the Drum', a show explaining the history and traditions of taiko drumming and 'Rinnetensho', a collaboration with contemporary dance company, Company East, from Japan.

We first met Company East 5 years ago at the Fringe, and have wanted to work together ever since then. This year we decided to go for the plunge, and started working towards this show. As we are based on other sides of the globe, the only way to do it was by communicating by email, phone and recordings. In April we sent a demo CD of a one hour soundtrack to the show, which Company East then used to work out the choreography of the dances in Japan. Ideas and concepts were communicated by email. Final dance rehearsals took place in Avignon France, while they were performing there in July. In early August, Company East visited us at the Dojo in South Lanarkshire to rehearse, and then a final technical rehearsal at the Garage Theatre, and the show was up & running. The collaboration has been very well received & it's been a real pleasure working with Company East. This is what the Edinburgh Festival is all about: the chance for artists from different backgrounds and from the far corners of the world to join together in creating new work.

Following the Edinburgh run we will hardly have time to take a breath before setting off on our autumn tour (see tour dates), which includes the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London and a tour of the Channel Islands. This autumn also brings a very special concert in Fukui, Japan, where Neil and Miyuki studied Taiko all those years ago. The Takefu International Association have invited the group for a concert to celebrate our 10th anniversary - full report in next issue of the newsletter, out in January.



Who is that Lady Penelope? Adam and Teresa let their hair down at the Birmingham Motor Show



Fan of the year award goes to Gary Lee, pictured here at his 18th(!) Mugenkyo concert - Beat that!

Hope to see you all at an autumn concert!



Sho, Yoko and Taka, our dancer friends from Company East



The lady in the mask is Hilde McKenna, who joined us on our May tour and will be joining us again on our autumn tour.

An experienced performer, Hilde is a dancer, actress and singer, who takes to the stage with Mugenkyo for our 2004 dates since first picking up a pair of taiko drumsticks 7 years ago at a Mugenkyo workshop. You can catch her on our autumn tour... if you dare!

taiko taiko

"TAIKO TAIKO" is the quarterly newsletter of Mugenkyo and the Mugen Taiko Dojo, publishing information about the group and Taiko Dojo activities, the art form of Taiko, and Taiko events in the UK.

MUGENKYO Taiko Drummers

Established in 1994, MUGENKYO is Europe's first professional Taiko drum group, performing at theatres, concert halls, festivals and events throughout Britain and Europe. MUGENKYO's aim is to develop Taiko as a European art form, through performances and joint projects and collaborations across a wide variety of artistic disciplines.

www.mugenkyo.com



The MUGEN TAIKO DOJO is the first purpose-built Taiko Centre in the UK. Located in rural Scotland, it is a place where

people gather from all over Britain and Europe to learn about the art form of Taiko through residential workshops and regular classes. It is also the permanent base and training space for Mugenkyo. The Dojo's extensive outreach programme takes Taiko to schools and communities, creating a greater understanding about Taiko throughout the UK.

www.taikodojo.com

Mugenkyo, P.O. Box 5124, Lanark ML11 0WA

email: mail@mugenkyo.com

tel/fax: 01357 522 008

THANK YOU TO THOSE OF YOU THAT SENT IN DONATIONS TOWARDS THE COST OF THIS NEWSLETTER - FULL LIST IN NEXT ISSUE

Please remember, it costs money to put out a newsletter. Please help us to continue, by sending donations - a book of stamps, postal orders or cheques (made payable to Mugenkyo), all gratefully accepted.

MUGENKYO TOUR DATES 10th ANNIVERSARY YEAR 1994 - 2004

SEPTEMBER

Wed 8th	Durham, Gala Theatre	0191 332 4041
Sat 11th	Winchester, Theatre Royal	01962 840 440
Mon 13th	Hayes, Beck Theatre	0208 561 8371
Tue 14th	Worthing, Pavilion Theatre	01903 206 206
Wed 15th	London, Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank	0207 960 4242
Thu 16th	Hastings, White Rock Theatre	01424 462 288
Fri 17th	Croydon, Ashcroft Theatre, Fairfield Hall	020 8688 9291
Sat 18th	Gillingham, Will Adams Festival (Daytime, free admission).	01634 843 666
Sun 19th	Chelmsford, Civic Theatre	01245 606 505
Tue 21st	Nottingham, Royal Concert Hall	0115 989 5555
Wed 22nd	Milton Keynes, Stables Theatre	01908 280 800
Thu 23rd	Port Talbot, Princess Royal Theatre	01639 763 214
Fri 24th	Camberley, The Camberley Theatre	01276 707 600
Sat 25th	Jersey, Arts Centre, St Helier, Channel Islands	01534 700 444
Sun 26th	Alderney, St Anne's School, Channel Islands	01481 823 467
Mon 27th	Sark, Island Hall, Channel Islands	01481 832 008
Tue 28th	Guernsey, St James Concert Hall, Channel Islands	01481 711 361

OCTOBER

Fri 1st	Harlech, Theatre Ardudwy	01766 780 667
Sat 2nd	Malvern, Forum Theatre	01684 892 277
Mon 4th	Grimby, Auditorium	0870 060 2331
Wed 6th	Wakefield, Theatre Royal	01924 211 311
Thu 7th	Loughborough, Arts Centre	01509 222 899
Fri 8th	Bowness-on-Windermere, Old Laundry Theatre	01539 488 444
Sat 9th	Halifax, Square Chapel	01422 349 422
Sat 16th	Irvine, Magnum Theatre	01294 313 016
Sun 17th	Chesterfield, Winding Wheel	01246 345 334
Mon 18th	Scunthorpe, Plowright Theatre	01724 842 332

NOVEMBER

Tue 19th	St. Andrews, Byre Theatre	01334 475 000
Sat 27th	Takefu, Bunka Kaikan Hall, Japan (Mugenkyo 10th year Anniversary Concert)	

T-shirts available in:

MERCHANDISE

BACK - all sizes - same design

Blue - Childrens XL



FRONT

Red - Small



Black - Medium



Khaki - Large



Black - XL



Navy Blue - XXL



CD

