

PARAMOUNT  
EDUCATION

# YAMATO

THE DRUMMERS OF JAPAN



MARCH 20-21, 2023



Yamato was founded in Japan's Nara Prefecture in 1993. For the players of Yamato, every encounter is a unique and precious experience. Our greatest goal is to send our audiences home after each performance with a new vitality and passion for life. As we continue to tour and perform throughout Japan and around the world, whether in concerts, classrooms, school assemblies or workshops, our troupe will continue to cherish and uphold Yamato, the spirit of Japan.

Yamato has given over 4,000 performances in 54 countries and regions. Every year, Yamato tours the world for 6 to 10 months, creating and presenting original Yamato compositions.

When Yamato was founded, they toured from 1993-2002 performing in many countries, some of which are listed on the right. Can you find and circle the countries they visited on the map?

- China
- South Korea
- Indonesia
- Brazil
- U.K. (United Kingdom)
- Sweden
- Israel



(Source: geology.com)

# TAIKO FUN FACTS

## What is Taiko?

TAIKO is known as the “heartbeat of Japan.” It is the style of drumming you witnessed during the performance. Taiko translates to “DRUM” in English.

It's written in the kanji writing system as 太鼓

Can you write the kanji symbol for Taiko below?



## Origins of Taiko

Taiko drums were used in ancient Japan over 2000 years ago. Taiko drumming was used in rituals and festivals of **BUDDHIST** and Shinto religions. Japanese **KABUKI** theatre involved Taiko drumming. In feudal Japan, taiko was often used to signal soldiers, inspire troops, set the pace of marching, or even intimidate enemies.



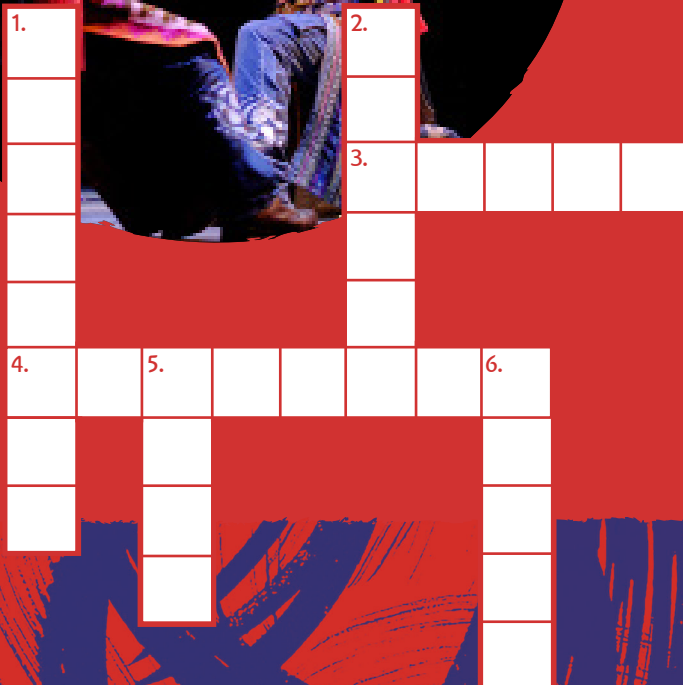
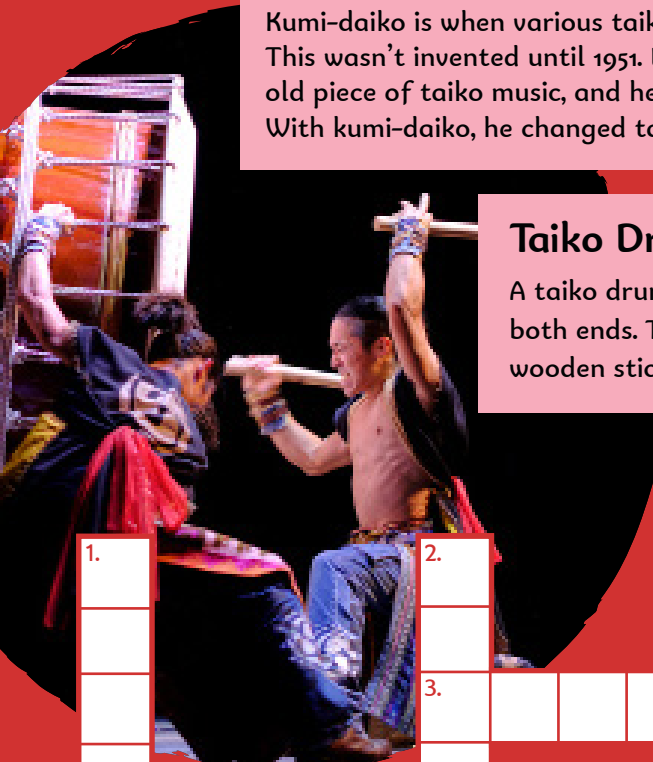
## Kumi-daiko

Kumi-daiko is when various taikos play together in a group or **ENSEMBLE**. This wasn't invented until 1951. Daihachi Oguchi, a jazz drummer, was studying an old piece of taiko music, and he saw the potential of playing multiple drums at once. With kumi-daiko, he changed taiko drumming forever. This is what you saw in the show!

## Taiko Drum Structure

A taiko drum uses an open-ended wooden barrel with animal skin stretched over both ends. The wood used to carve the barrel is often from a **KEYAKI** tree. The wooden sticks used to play it are called **BACHI**.

(Source: taiko-center.co.jp/english)



## TAIKO CROSSWORD

Complete this crossword using the Taiko Fun Facts above. Use the bolded words as your word bank!

### HINTS:

1. Kumi-daiko is when multiple taikos play together in an \_\_\_\_\_
2. This type of theatre uses Taiko drumming
3. The wooden sticks used for Taiko drumming
4. This religion uses taiko drumming during its festivals and rituals
5. The English word for “Taiko”
6. Known as the “heartbeat of Japan”

- ANSWERS:**
1. ENSEMBLE
  2. KABUKI
  3. BACHI
  4. BUDDHIST
  5. DRUM
  6. TAIKO

# PERCUSSION

Drums, including taiko drums, belong to the family of percussion instruments. Percussion instruments are instruments that make sound when they are struck, shaken, or scraped.

Can you name these percussion instruments?



1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

ANSWERS: 1. Xylophone 2. Maracas 3. Snare Drum 4. Triangle 5. Tambourine 6. Bell

# OTHER TAIKO ELEMENTS

## Vocalizations

The *kakegoe* and *kiai* are vocalizations made by members of Kumi-Daiko ensembles to provide instructions (like changing sections or tempo) or to energize the ensemble or audience. These are the same terms for vocalizations made in martial arts and traditional Japanese theatre.



## Movements

The posture and movements in Taiko performance are defined as *kata*. This is similar to *hara* used in martial arts meaning the center of being is in the stomach. The most important component of *Kata* is keeping the body stabilized while performing by keeping a wide, low stance.

To help understand why vocalizations and movements are important to Taiko, think of how we use these two things in another activity. Think of an activity or hobby where you must be vocal and physical. This could be a sport, art form, etc.

Then, write the vocal and physical part of that activity in the space provided.

Activity: \_\_\_\_\_

Vocalizations: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Movements: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## DIY DRUM

Make your own drum at home! Ask an adult for permission and help if needed.

All you need are:



Opened Tin Cans



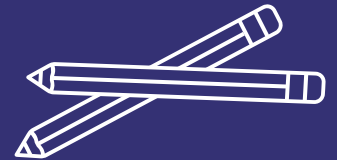
Balloons or Tape



Scissors



Rubber Bands



Chopsticks or Pencils

### Follow these simple steps!

1. Cut the balloon a few inches from its hole so you just have the bulb.
2. Carefully cover the open end of the can with the balloon and use rubber bands to secure.
3. Play the drum using your chopsticks, pencils, or any other kind of stick!

*Alternative: You can cover the open end of the can with tape instead of using a balloon.*



(Source: [diyinspired.com](http://diyinspired.com))

## TAIKO PRACTICE

### Let's practice a simple rhythm with your DIY Drum!

There are 4 symbols in sets A, B, C, and D. Every set will be 4 beats. On each beat, you will hit the drum either once or twice depending on if it's Don or Doko. Follow the chart to the right. Once you've got these down, try playing all four sets back-to-back!



DON: Hit the center of the drum once



DOKO: Hit the center of the drum twice

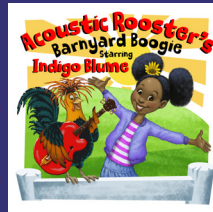
	BEAT 1	BEAT 2	BEAT 3	BEAT 4
A	DON	DON	DON	DON
B	DON	DON	DOKO	DON
C	DOKO	DON	DOKO	DON
D	DOKO	DOKO	DOKO	DON

(Source: [themusiciancat.com](http://themusiciancat.com))



## The Paramount Theatre

was built 107 years ago in 1915. Back then, Congress Avenue was a dirt road and the automobile was a new invention. As one of the first examples of early theatre architecture, the Paramount has been bringing Austin families together for generations. When you visit the theatre, you enter a place that feels exciting and welcoming. From your seat, you can almost reach out and touch the performers on stage! Many famous people have performed at the Paramount. From magician Harry Houdini to the premier of the original Batman movie, the Paramount and its audiences have seen it all over the past 100 years...here's to the next century!



## ACOUSTIC ROOSTER'S BARNYARD BOOGIE

STARRING  
INDIGO BLOOM



MARCH 26-28, 2023

## Paramount Education

We inspire the intellect and imagination of young people by providing opportunities to **experience, perform, and learn** through the arts. We can't wait to see you again at our theatre or in our school programs! Paramount Education programs are made possible through generous donations from our community. If you are interested in finding out more or want to make a contribution, please reach out to Krystal Parsons at [kparsons@austintheatre.org](mailto:kparsons@austintheatre.org). Thank you!

### THANK YOU TO OUR 2022-2023 EDUCATION PARTNERS

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