

j COUNTDOWN TO JAPAN 2001!

23 April 2001

What to do! What to see! : Taiko

Taiko drumming is an exhilarating musical experience for participants and audiences alike. We are lucky in the UK to have a growing taiko network and Japan 2001 offers many opportunities to catch some taiko. You may want to attend a performance or even to organise your own taiko event. But who to contact? Try the following experts!

Mark Alcock and James Barrow

Mark and James regularly hold taiko workshops in primary and secondary schools, as well as taiko courses for adults. Mark is located in Buckinghamshire and James in South Wales. Contact them to arrange a visit to your school. James' Japan 2001 event is the **Taiko Wales Schools Project**, running until March 2002. Schools throughout Wales will host workshops. To find out more details about what is needed for a taiko workshop, to book them or to take part in Taiko Wales (James Barrow), visit www.mark.alcock.com and www.rhythmworks.com or contact:

- Mark Alcock, Barn House, Broomfield Hill, Great Missenden HP16 9HT. Tel/Fax: 07092 200417. E-mail mark@alcock.com
- James Barrow, Ferndale, 4 Railway Terrace, Machynlleth, Powys SY20 8BJ Tel/Fax: 01654 702134.
E-mail jamesbarrow@taikowales.freemove.co.uk



Kagemusha

Based in Exeter, Kagemusha Taiko can provide taiko workshops for schools. They are led by Jonathan Kirby, creative director and principal teacher of the company, together with members of the group Taikomotion. Kagemusha Taiko also has an instructional video (cost £16 inc. VAT & postage), designed for beginners. Teachers may find it useful as preparation for or as follow-up to a workshop - whether from Kagemusha or any other taiko teachers. For more information, visit www.kagemusha.com or contact:

- Jonathan Kirby, Kagemusha, PO Box 128, Exeter, EX4 6YT. Tel/Fax 01392 494486
E-mail info@kagemusha.com

Mugenkyo



Formed in 1994, Mugenkyo is a five-piece group regularly performing throughout the UK. Mugenkyo gives exciting shows for children at primary schools, which they adapt for special needs groups, secondary schools, or universities. Their show is energetic, visual, humorous and educational, introducing Taiko drumming within the rich context of Japanese folk culture.

- Neil Mackie, Mugenkyo, P.O. Box 5124, Lanark, ML11 0WA Tel/Fax: 01357 522008.
E-mail mail@mugenkyo-taiko.co.uk
website: www.mugenkyo-taiko.co.uk

Where to see taiko in 2001

KODO

16-18 Nov Barbican, London (020 7638 8891)

Booking from May 2001

12 Nov Bridgewater Hall Manchester (0161 907 9000)

Booking from August 2001

Wadaiko Yamato

29 May - Peacock Theatre, London (020 7863 8000)

10 June

Taiko to Tabla - with Joji Hirota & Pete Lockett

23 June Lichfield festival (01543 262223)

7 July Llangollen festival (01978 860030)

Kagemusha Taiko

12 May Plough Arts Centre, Torrington (01805 622552)

19-20 May Matsuri, Hyde Park

6-7 July Exeter Phoenix (01392 667080)

7 July Exeter Phoenix - Public day workshops

(tel: 01392 494486 for information)

Mugenkyo

May

3 Millfield Theatre, London (020 8807 6680)

4 Blackfriars Arts Centre, Boston (01205 363108)

5 X-trax Festival, Manchester (0161 2240020)

6 Maydaze Festival, Stockport (0161 224 0020)

10 Canford School, Wimborne (0102 841254)

11 Trinity Arts Centre, Tunbridge Wells (01892 678678)

13 Donnington Grove, Newbury (01635 40542)

14 Wrexham Arts Festival (01978 292683)

For further dates see the websites listed on this page

For queries and information on **education** events, contact Mark Smith at:

Japan 2001 Education, JFET, 59 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6AJ tel: 020 7630 8696 email: mark@jfet.org.uk

or for **general** Japan 2001 information you can also contact Elizabeth Pickup:

Japan 2001, Embassy of Japan, 101 - 104 Piccadilly, London W1J 7JT tel: 020 7499 9644 email: ep@japan2001.org.uk

j LOOKING FOR INSPIRATION?

It's nearly May and Japan 2001 is about to start. So, if you are still puzzling over what to do in school, you could hop on a plane to Japan and look for some ideas. Or, for a more practical solution, attend one of the following events, get some inspiration, and start planning. It's still not too late to hold your own event!!!

See the Japan 2001 website (www.japan2001.org.uk), call 020 7499 9644 (Secretariat) or contact Mark Smith on 020 7630 8696 or mark@jfet.org.uk to find out about other events.

Film and Animation

Japan on the Web: A look at creative use of the web from Japan. (1-31 May)

Watershed Cinema, Bristol Tel: 0117 9276444

Brighton Festival: A variety of films, including a Sunday matinee retrospective of films by Kenji Mizoguchi (all dates are May 2001)

A Page of Madness (dir. Teinosuke Kinugasa) (11th)

Sansho the Bailiff (6th)

The Story of the Late Chrysanthemums (13th)

New Tales of the Taira Clan (20th)

Tale of the Pale and Silvery Moon after the rain (27th).

Duke of York's Cinema, Preston Circus, Brighton Tel: 01273 602503

It is becoming easier to find Japanese films on video. JFET (020 7630 8696) has a list, which includes details of the main distribution companies.

Kew Gardens, London (tel: 020 8332 5000)

Japanese Gardens

Japanese Plants in Landscape and Culture (Feb - Nov)

The creation of a Japanese landscape, including a rock and moss centre with seasonal plants, cherry blossom and an area of terraced 'paddy rice'. The scene will illustrate aspects of traditional agriculture, Japanese garden history and cultural symbolism associated with plants.

Bonsai Exhibition (11 July - 30 Sept)

An exhibition of world class Bonsai trees imported from Japan. Including demonstrations and workshops on the art of Bonsai growing and maintenance.

Fans, Screens & Neon Lights (11 July - 30 Sept)

The Visual Learning Foundation (020 7609 7155) will use the gardens at Kew as inspiration for workshops being held in conjunction with this exhibition of primary school artwork on Japanese themes.

Chelsea Flower Show

Shin Gyo So (22-25 May)

A Japanese garden created under the supervision of Masao Fukuhara, associate Professor in Environmental Planning at Osaka University. This garden has been developed specially for the Flower Show and will incorporate three main elements 'Pond and Spring', 'Dry Stone' and 'Tea Garden'.

RHS Garden Rosemoor, Great Torrington, North Devon International Weekend (12 & 13 May)

A weekend of events on Japanese plants and gardens, including 3 lectures each day and various demonstrations.

Sport

2001 British Open Shogi Championship

University Centre, Cambridge (5 & 6 May)

Shogi is frequently referred to as 'Japanese chess'. The Open will attract competitors from all over the UK and continental Europe. Three professional players from Japan will give demonstration games and workshops as well as teaching both novices and experienced Shogi players. For more information contact:

Phil Holland, 94 Green Drift, Royston, Herts SG8 5BT, tel 07714 279085. email: phil.holland@bcs.org.uk
www.hollandnumerics.demon.co.uk/BRI_TOPEN.HTM

Mumeishi 3's International Kendo Clubs Championship (17 & 18 November)

London's Mumeishi kendo club is organising its annual Championships, one of Europe's largest Kendo events. The tournament will be taking place in Hounslow with over 400 competitors from all over the world. Details from:

Terry Holt, 32 Tilney Road, Southall UB2 5LT
tel: 020 8571 3374, email: mumeishi@fxs.co.uk
www.fxs.co.uk/kendo/index.html

Sunderland International Kite Festival

(7-8 July, 11am - 5pm) Northern Area Playing Fields, District 12, Washington Tyne and Wear, England

Kite Crazy!

Don't miss this free festival with its unique blend of music, entertainment and above all... kites.... The festival regularly attracts an audience of over 70,000 people and offers an exciting time for the whole family.

For further information, contact Jackie Smith on telephone 0191 514 1235, or see the Festival website:

www.sunderland.gov.uk/kitefestival

Kite Workshops

If you are interested in holding Japanese kite related activities at school, please contact Malcolm Goodman:

tel: 01642 550827,

e-mail: malcolm.goodman@virgin.net www.kiteman.co.uk



Looking for people to run workshops or give demonstrations and lectures at your school? Then ask for the Japan 2001 Access to Experts list, which has details of how to contact over 75 UK based experts in Japan-related fields ranging from gardens and kites to Ikebana, paper making and doll making. To obtain your copy call Mark on 020 7630 8696 or email: mark@japan2001.org.uk

OTHER SUMMER EVENTS

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Theatre

Kensuke's Kingdom, Polka Theatre for Children, London (3 May - 9 June)

Dramatisation of the children's book by Michael Morpurgo for 8 and older, plus accompanying workshops. On 1 June, a half term morning event including origami and drama workshops, will be held to prepare children for the performance.

A teachers preview will be held on 10 May at 7.00 PM. Two free tickets per school will be given to teachers. A special touch tour with Audi resources will be available for the visually impaired on 5 June. And on 8 June a special sign show will be held for the hearing impaired. Teachers' packs are available price £1.00 (teachers) or £1.50 (general public).

For more details contact Rebecca Hazzard on 020 8545 8329. Box Office: 020 8543 4888

Nina and Frederick

Over 150 children in primary schools in Coventry will be collaborating with performance artists Nina and Frederick in a cultural fantasy that has for its stage the web and the streets of Tokyo. The children will pick up themes through their own projects, workshops and web animation, culminating in e-card messages to their counterparts in Tokyo. In July Nina and Frederick will visit primary schools in Japan. Watch the fantasies spin at www.ninaandfrederick.co.uk Or go straight to Nina and Frederick's Japan 2001 page at www.ninaandfrederick.co.uk/w_japan.html. For more details contact: Richard Talbot, 5 Parrotts Grove, Coventry CV2 1NQ. Tel: 07899 872215 e-mail frederick@ninaandfrederick.co.uk

Chikamatsu- za Kabuki, Sadler's Wells Theatre, London (30 May - 9 June), Lowry Centre, Salford (14 - 16 June)

Ganjiro Nakamura leads the renowned Chikamatsu-za in the UK's first kabuki production of the classic 'Love Suicides at Sonezaki'. Box Office: 020 7863 8000 (London), 0161 876 2000 (Salford)

Kyogen, Shakespeare's Globe, London (18 - 22 July)

In this fusion of Japanese and British theatrical traditions, the Mansaku Company creates a kyogen version of Shakespeare's Comedy of Errors. Box Office: 020 7401 9919

Modern Noh Plays, Barbican Centre, London (27 - 30 June)

Yukio Ninagawa directs this double bill of modern Noh plays by Yukio Mishima. Box Office: 020 7638 8891

Music (forthcoming non-taiko events- see p1 for taiko)

Gaijin - Ukiyo no Ongaku

Gaijin is a three-piece group consisting of Jim Meaton (guitar and guitar synthesiser), Peter Coates (koto) and Alex Weeks (shakuhachi). The group's repertoire consists of traditional Japanese music, both folk and religious (Buddhist and Shinto) and contemporary improvisations. Gaijin are available for performances at schools.

Mr A Weeks, 17 South View, Queen Camel, Somerset, BA22 7ND Tel: 01935 851015 soundhutch@blueyonder.co.uk

Ensemble Tozai 17 - 28 May 2001 nationwide tour

- 17 May Royal Pavilion, Brighton (01273 709709)
- 18 May Exeter Phoenix (01392 667080)
- 22 May Theatr Mwldan, Aberteifi (01239 621200)
- 24 May Purcell Room, London (020 7960 4242)
- 25 May Concert Hall, Reading (0118 960 6060)
- 26 May Tramway, Glasgow (0141 287 3900)
- 28 May Peel Hall, Uni Salford (0161 295 3248)

An ensemble created for Japan 2001, comprising violin, piano, shakuhachi, percussion. Participatory workshops are scheduled around public performances. For information:

David Hirschman, PO Box 27205, London N11 2WT
tel: 020 8361 8665 email: david@hirschman.ndo.co.uk

Other

UK - Japan: Science Creativity and the Young Mind Workshop, Bristol, (22 - 30 July)

Post-16 students from schools across Britain and Japan will meet at the University of Bristol to work in small teams on a wide range of real-life, science-related projects, ranging from earthquake engineering to medical ethics. Students have the opportunity to develop the 'scientist within themselves' and see their school work in a wider context. The residential workshop will culminate with public presentations by the student teams on 27 July. Outcomes will also be presented on the internet.

For more information contact, Eric Albone:
Clifton Scientific Trust, 49 Northumberland Road, Bristol, BS6 7BA

e-mail: eric.albone@clifton-scientific.org
web page: www.clifton-scientific.org



Japanese science teachers discuss work with British students in the preliminary phase of Science, Creativity & the YoungMind

Japan 2001 at the ROYAL CORNWALL MUSEUM

A series of events inspired by the exhibition, **The Art of Japanese Shibayama Lacquer Ware**.

Turning Japanese (5 May. 10.30am - 1pm and 2 - 4pm)

A day of family activities. Make a carp banner, try origami, calligraphy, Japanese food & dress in a kimono.

Myths And Masks Workshops (30-31 May, 10am -12noon, 2-4pm) Make masks based on Japanese myths.

Japanese Calligraphy Workshop (19 May, 2-4pm) For adults, including a talk and demonstration

For full details on the above, or to reserve a place on a workshop, contact the Museum on 01872 272205.

j JAPAN 2001 - resources update

Japan 2001 subsidy scheme

Don't forget that any authorised Japan 2001 event is eligible to apply for a subsidy, though the Secretariat is particularly interested in those with an educational element. Two application deadlines remain:

20 July 2001

20 October 2001

For application forms and more information on the subsidy scheme, see the March issue of **Countdown**, contact Jill Birch at the Japan 2001 Secretariat on tel: 020 7499 9644 or email: jb@japan.2001.org.uk

JICC Resource Packs

The **Japan Information & Cultural Centre (JICC)** has two packs of resources for schools holding Japan 2001 registered events.

Pack 1 (100 sets to be given to schools)

containing a variety of publications: Views of Japan, Understanding Japan, JFET's Geography Resource Pack as well as maps and posters

Pack 2 (available on loan to schools)

containing yukata (summer kimono), happi, videos, music CDs, traditional toys etc

nb schools are required to pay return postage for Pack 2

Miss Ikeda

Education Department

JICC, Embassy of Japan

101 - 104 Piccadilly, London W1J 7JT

tel: 020 7465 6578 fax: 020 7491 9347

Teachers' Workshops

Planning an event for Japan 2001? This year, JFET is planning a number of workshops with LEAs planning Japan focus events. Held in association with the Japan Information & Cultural Centre, the workshops are free to teachers.

Gloucester 28 April

Activities for a Japan Day: Teachers will attend workshops on Japanese food, wood block printing, drumming, origami, haiku and, language

Bristol 5 June

Afternoon and twilight sessions at Bristol Education Centre. For art and primary teachers.

Port Talbot 5 July

A day for secondary music, geography and primary teachers

For details or to reserve a place on any of these, contact JFET (Sam/Heidi) on 020 7630 8696 or email: jfet@jfet.org.uk

Discovering Japan

A 'hands-on' exhibition providing your pupils with a chance to experience discovery-based learning and to develop their research, investigative, problem solving and designing skills.

Discovering Japan introduces the country and its culture through seven themed sections. Your pupils can have their Japanese fortune told or make a wish at the Shinto Shrine, try on a traditional kimono, design a miniature Japanese garden and grind, grate and rehydrate Japanese food. They can find out about Japanese writing, wrap a Japanese parcel and design their own family crest.

It is particularly suitable for pupils from Years 3 to 8, though it will be of interest to any group making a study of Japan. Discovering Japan can accommodate up to 30 pupils at a time.

During Japan 2001, Discovering Japan is at the following venues. Please contact the venues directly to make a booking for your school.

18 May Gardner Centre, Brighton

- 20 June tel: 01273 260821

2 - 23 July Education Centre, Porth

tel: 01443 680391 (Lesley Godding)

5 Sept British Museum

- 19 Oct tel: 020 7323 8938 (Education Dept.)

29 Oct The Study Gallery, Poole

- 5 Dec tel: 01202 205200

Have you visited the Japan 2001 website yet?

www.japan2001.org.uk

Looking for an event in your area? Just need an idea of the kind of events which are making up Japan 2001? Want to know how to register an event? Seeking information on funding? Trying to find out who the Japan 2001 co-ordinator is for your area?

In addition to all the above, a fully searchable database of Japan 2001 events will soon be available on the site. So why not visit the official Japan 2001 site next time you're online?

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