

## Lecture/Taiko Demonstration and Taiko Workshop with San Jose Taiko

In collaboration with Budohuset in Uppsala, we have the great pleasure of welcoming Franco Imperial, Yurika hiba, and Geoff Noone to Sweden on **June 4th, 2019**. It is a great opportunity to be able to learn taiko from our invited instructors, world renowned taiko artists from *San Jose Taiko*!



Photos: Courtesy of San Jose Taiko

Taiko (太鼓) originates from Japan. It is played all over the world at any age and no previous drumming nor taiko knowledge is necessary in order to start playing taiko. Taiko has not only spread geographically over the years, but has expanded artistically as well, from traditional festival drumming, to creating new styles of taiko and collaboration with other musical forms.

As an art form, taiko began with Daihachi Oguchi [1924-2008], founder of *Osuwa Daiko* in 1953. *Yushima Tenjin Sukeroku Daiko*, founded in the 1960s, laid the foundation for what we today call *kumi-daiko*. *Kumi-daiko* has its traditional roots in *Gagaku* (imperial court music from the 7th century), *Kabuki* dance drama, *Noh* drama and Japanese festival drumming.



This exciting event features a lecture/demonstration and a 3-hour taiko workshop with Franco Imperial, Yurika Chiba, and Geoff Noone from *San Jose Taiko*!

*San Jose Taiko* is based in San Jose, California, USA, and was founded in 1973.

*San Jose Taiko* has become a world-class ensemble, performing extensively both nationally and internationally, reaching more than 75,000 audience members each year. By studying with masters of other traditions and cultures, *San Jose Taiko* has

broadened and embellished this historical art form of taiko into a distinct performance style that blends the traditional rhythms of Japanese drumming with the beat of world rhythms, including African, Brazilian, Filipino, Latin and Jazz and is often described as “dancing with drums.” Known for synchronized choreography, eclectic musicality, and joyful spirit, *San Jose Taiko* performances and instruction are sought throughout the world by taiko fans and practitioners alike.



Photos: Courtesy of San Jose Taiko

With reservation for changes.

**Register for the workshops and lecture:**

<http://taikoshinkai.com/contact/taiko-workshop-june-2019.html>

<http://taikoshinkai.com/contact/taiko-lecture-june-2019.html>

**Lecture and Workshop Registration Information**

The lecture is free of charge. Please reserve your place, since there's a limited number of places. The reservations will be on first come, first serve basis.

We also accept workshop participants on first come, first serve basis, which means that those who have paid the workshop fee have a guaranteed workshop spot.

It is not possible to participate in the workshop if the workshop fee has not been paid in full to us before the workshop begins.

If the lecture or workshop become full, then we will have a waiting list, in case there are any cancellations.

In collaboration with:



This event features a 60-minute lecture/demonstration followed by an exciting taiko workshop that explores choreography basics around the naname (slant) style of drumming.

**Roots of North American Taiko: San Jose Taiko**

This 60 minute lecture/demonstration outlines *San Jose Taiko's* start in the early 1970's during the Asian American identity and Civil Rights movements in the United States. It will also highlight the company's beginnings from the cultural community of Japantown. The lecture/demonstration will trace these origins to the philosophy's that have helped the company thrive organizationally and artistically today.

After the lecture/demonstration, there will be a chance to ask questions.

**Taiko Workshop: Naname Movement**

*San Jose Taiko's* visual style is defined by the performer's ability to move around the drum. In this workshop participants will be introduced to concepts and techniques to help them feel comfortable and confident with movement around the *naname* stance. Experience with *naname* style is helpful but not required.

**Event Date:**

Tuesday **June 4th**

Lecture/demonstration - 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

*Free entrance*

Taiko workshop - 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

*Workshop fee: 650 kronor per participant*

**Location:**

Budohuset, Svartbäcksgatan 86, Uppsala, Sweden.

**Early Bird Offer:**

*Workshop fee discount if the taiko workshop is prepaid before March 29th: 550 kronor!*

**Cancellation information:**

Cancellations no later than 4 weeks before: Workshop fees are refunded 100% of your payment.

Cancellations no later than 3 weeks before: Workshop fees are refunded 50% of your payment.

Cancellations no later than 2 weeks before: Workshop fees are refunded 25% of your payment.

Cancellations made 1 week before or later: Workshop fees cannot be refunded.

**Lecture: Roots of North American Taiko: San Jose Taiko**

Tuesday **June 4th, 2019** - 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. – *Free entrance*

*San Jose Taiko* (SJT) started in 1973 in San Jose Japantown, one of three Japantowns remaining in North America today. The early 1970's were a time of Civil Rights and Asian American identity movements in America. The founders of SJT, university aged students at the time, chose the taiko as a tool to express and explore their identities as Americans with Asian/Japanese ancestry. The founders of the performing company chose not to simply be a copy of a taiko group from Japan but instead infuse their style with contemporary music and tastes to create a sound that speaks to what has been called the "Asian Soul in America".

In the early 1980's the company incorporated as a non-profit organization and began to tour nationally; playing in venues such as Carnegie Hall in New York. Within the Bay Area of Northern California, the company helped coin the term for the genre known today as multicultural performing arts in time where the arts were primarily recognized as ballet, symphony, opera.

Within the growing community of taiko groups *San Jose Taiko* along with other pioneering taiko organizations advocated for an environment of sharing versus competition between groups which laid the foundation for the way the art form has spread across the planet. Today the company continues to evolve and produce work that reflects on the times we live in. This lecture/demonstration traces this vast journey from the 1970's to today. *San Jose Taiko* performers will share their history through photos/video, stories, and performance.



Photo: Courtesy of San Jose Taiko

**Taiko Workshop: Naname Movement**

Tuesday **June 4th, 2019** - Taiko workshop - 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

In *San Jose Taiko*'s "Naname Movement" taiko workshop participants will be introduced to concepts and techniques to help them feel comfortable and confident with movement around the *naname* stand. Experience with *naname* style is helpful but not required. At the end of the workshop participants are encouraged to use the elements they learned to create new expressions of their own.

Slant stands, also called *naname-dai* or *Sukeroku-dai*, were first used in the 1960's by *Sukeroku Taiko*, which is credited with being the first professional all-taiko ensemble in Tokyo. The *naname-dai* was popularized in North America by Seiichi Tanaka, a student of *Oedo Sukeroku Taiko*, who founded *San Francisco Taiko Dojo*, the first taiko ensemble to form in the United States. Many groups in North America play this style, but there are many groups here and in Japan that choose not to. *San Jose Taiko* has modified their *naname-dai*, placing the taiko at a lower angle. *San Jose Taiko* is also one of the first group to put their stands on wheeled carts for mobility.

**Taiko Shin Kai**

*Taiko Shin Kai* is a non-profit organization, that wish to encourage and spread taiko, Japanese drumming, in Sweden. *Taiko Shin Kai* offers regular taiko training and workshops in Stockholm and Uppsala for children and adults.

