

サンフランシスコ太鼓道場 SAN FRANCISCO TAIKO DOJO

Performers:
Seiichi Tanaka (Team-leader)
Robinson Wadsworth, John Rocheleau, Thomas Treynor,
Leo Kimura, Ryan Kimura, Marc Ikeda, Ryuma Tanaka



San Francisco Taiko Dojo is the first Taiko *dojo* or school in North America, founded by Grand Master Seiichi Tanaka in 1968. His dream is to have the word Taiko, like karate and sushi, become part of the American vocabulary.

Their performance is powerful and energetic with combination of rhythm, harmony, and body movements. The members are disciplined by Mr. Tanaka who has studied several of the renowned traditional Taiko schools as well as Japanese traditional dance and martial arts.

It is said that more than 200 Taiko teams exist in the U.S., many of whom studied under Mr. Tanaka. His long dedicated work in introducing and promoting Taiko in the U.S. was recognized by the National Endowment for the Arts, and Tanaka received the National Heritage Fellowship in 2001 as the first Japanese ever to receive this award. Mr. Tanaka, the master traditional artist in the U.S., is also one of the chief Certified Instructors of the Nippon Taiko Foundation in Japan.

San Francisco Taiko Dojo has given performances throughout the United States including the performance at Carnegie Hall in 1994. They have also performed overseas in Germany, France, Israel, Mexico, Cuba, and Japan. Their music has also reached a wider audience through such movies as *Apocalypse Now*, *Rising Sun*, *Return of the Jedi* and *The Right Stuff*.

甲州ろうあ太鼓 KOSHU ROA TAIKO

Koshu Roa Taiko is a Taiko team formed in 1981 in Yamanashi Prefecture with the main players having hearing impairment. Yamanashi is located at the foot of Mt. Fuji.

Members of Koshu Roa Taiko have different degrees of hearing impairment. Therefore, it is not easy for the team to play Taiko in synchronization with other members. After much devoted active training twice a week, the team has improved their Taiko skills, and increased their repertoires to become one of the best handicapped Taiko teams.

In addition to Taiko performances, the team is often requested to give lectures titled "Can-Do." The lectures are based on their own experiences that effort, perseverance, continuation, and teamwork can lead to successful achievement.

In 1987, Koshu Roa Taiko realized their first overseas tour in Finland and former U.S.S.R.

Today in Japan, there are more than 50 Taiko teams made up of players with hearing impairments. They all enjoy experiencing music through Taiko.



Performers:
Chikara Sakuragi (Team-leader)
Naomitsu Inoue, Hiromitsu Takiguchi, Tetsuya Inooka,
Hirotaka Honobe, Ryuta Yamaguchi, Kazuko Yoneyama,
Yumi Sugiyama, Shosuke Kasai, Toshihiro Ono

天邪鬼 AMANOJAKU

Performers:
Yoichi Watanabe (Team-leader)
Hiromi Ogawa, Mayumi Kawana, Harumi Wakui,
Makoto Baba, Isaku Kageyama



AmanoJaku is a professional Taiko team formed in December 1986 by Mr. Yoichi Watanabe. Since its establishment, AmanoJaku has challenged to create new Taiko music by incorporating modern music into the traditional Japanese Taiko.

The sound created by the team is full of live Japanese spirit blended with a taste of Latin rhythm. This comes from the team-leader Watanabe's childhood, growing up in downtown Tokyo where he was surrounded by *Matsuri* festive spirit, but also getting very fond of Latin Music.

The team has been invited to perform at various national as well as international cultural events and was featured in many TV programs. They have also traveled to more than 20 different countries in both South and North Americas, Europe, and South East Asia. Every country they have visited, they have received enthusiastic welcome and their performances have been highly appreciated for bringing Japanese spirit.

AmanoJaku's performances are characterized by the members' power and superb sophisticated technique attained through rigorous training. The disciplined performing beauty and successful blending of different rhythms make AmanoJaku unique.