



Dear Musician-Colleague,

Taikoz is a professional taiko ensemble based in Sydney, Australia. We are currently considering the addition of new members to our line-up and are inviting players to audition on **July 1, 2017**. If you are interested in the prospect of playing in the group on a regular basis, and believe you have the skills and dedication – and potential to develop new skills – to take part in all aspects of our musical and educational operations, then please consider the following information and send us an application. If you have any queries, please feel free to contact me at any time (in English).

I look forward to hearing from you!

Ian Cleworth
Taiko Artistic Director
ad@taikoz.com

Taikoz is looking for players with high-level musical and taiko-playing ability to join the ensemble.

In 2017, Taikoz celebrates 20 years of music-making, and over the course of their history have given countless mainstage performances in Australia and overseas, collaborated with some legendary artists, and created a highly original body of work that has seen their artistry and reputation grow.

In just the past three years, Taikoz has:

- Premiered their original work *Chi Udaka* in the 2014 Sydney Festival;
- Played *Chi Udaka* on a 5-city tour to India and 11 dates on the Australian eastern seaboard;
- Toured the USA and New Zealand;
- Collaborated with major artists – Kodo Distinguished Member Chieko Kojima in an original production, *The Beauty Of 8*, and New York shinobue/taiko virtuoso Kaoru Watanabe in *Future Directions*;
- Presented a month-long regional tour of Australia;
- Undertaken several months of touring of concerts for schools, as well as many short tours to cities and towns in Australia.

Taikoz's 2017 schedule includes a major new production to celebrate their 20th anniversary, as well as several exciting projects under discussion for 2018.

Taikoz is fortunate to own a large collection of beautiful hand-crafted Asano and Miyamoto taiko instruments. The group trains together in Sydney 4 days every week, in addition to smaller 'combo' sessions, creative development periods, individual practice, intensive rehearsal periods and teaching.

Process

If you are interested in applying for the audition, which will be held in Sydney on **Saturday July 1**, please send an email (in English) to Taikoz artistic director Ian Cleworth (ad@taikoz.com). It should comprise:

- A paragraph or two of why you would like to join Taikoz, including what you feel you would bring to the ensemble;
- A biography of previous taiko and musical education;
- A list of previous performing experience;
- Applications must be received by **June 2, 2017**.

Please note that applicants from non-English speaking countries need to be able to speak English at the level of 'daily conversation' (basic to intermediate) and should also apply in written English.

Please be aware that Taikoz may shortlist applicants and so applying does not guarantee an audition. All applicants to be invited to audition will be notified by **June 5, 2017**. A list of works to be prepared, sheet music and video footage will also be provided.

Auditions will be held at Taikoz's Ultimo (Sydney) studio on **Saturday July 1**. If you cannot attend the audition in person, please see the note below about submitting a video audition.

Taikoz is based in Sydney Australia and so any successful applicant must be prepared to reside in Sydney.

Key Dates

1. **June 2:** Applications due
2. **June 5:** Confirmation of audition
3. **July 1 / 1:30-4:30PM:** *Audition

*Auditions 'in person' are preferable, but if not possible, then please submit a video that:

- Is unedited;
- Is filmed from front camera angle;
- Includes entrance and exit from performing area;
- Is filmed in high quality vision & sound

Information about video file format and delivery mode will be given with notification of an audition.

Audition requirements will cover the following areas

- SHIMEDAICO (seated cross-legged on the floor)
- NAGADO (seated on floor, playing in yataibayashi-style position)
- ODAIKO (Solo)
- TAIKO SET (set of 3 taiko, including some improvisation)
- KATSUGI OKEDO
- PLAYING WITH MOVEMENT (choreographed movement of the body with katsugi-okedo played with one bachi. Choreography will need to be learnt by video, which will be supplied upon admission of audition).
- FREE CHOICE PIECE (3-4 minute solo of own composition on taiko of own choosing – please notify in your application what instrument(s) and style).

About Taikoz

Since 1997 Taikoz has developed an international reputation for vibrant performances that couple explosive energy and extreme dynamism with refinement and grace. From the most delicate melodies of the shakuhachi to the thunderous impact of the odaiko, Taikoz is at once meditative and free-spirited, primal and dramatic.

The ensemble undertakes a year-round schedule of workshops, teaching and performances that have seen them appear on the stages of Australia's finest concert halls, as well as those of Japan, the USA, France, New Zealand, Thailand, Taiwan, UAE and most recently India, where Taikoz presented to critical acclaim, *Chi Udaka*, their collaboration with Lingalayam Dance Company.

The group regularly appears in the theatres of regional Australia, having undertaken six Australia-wide tours. Taikoz has composed over thirty original works for wadaiko including several in combination with instruments such as shakuhachi, koto, marimba, saxophone, cello, drum set and didgeridoo. Distinguished composers Gerard Brophy, Andrea Molino, Michael Askill, David Pye, Graeme Koehne and Timothy Constable have also written works for the ensemble.

Taikoz has collaborated with artists and companies as diverse as John Bell and the Bell Shakespeare Company, taiko greats Eitetsu Hayashi, Kenny Endo and Kaoru Watanabe, as well as distinguished choreographers Meryl Tankard and Anandavalli. In 2012, Taikoz collaborated with Kodo on a nationwide tour of Australia. The group has also appeared in concerto works with the Sydney, Melbourne, West Australian and Queensland Symphony Orchestras, as well as the Dresden Sinfoniker in Europe.

Awards include Limelight Best New Composition Award for *Kaidan (Ghost Story)* - a dance theatre work in collaboration with choreographer Meryl Tankard and visual artist Regis Lansac, Sidney Myer Performing Arts Award in recognition of Taikoz's commitment to Australian music, and a Drover Award for regional touring and education. In 2016, Taikoz's co-founders Riley Lee and Ian Cleworth individually received Commendations from the Japanese Foreign Minister for their contributions towards promoting friendship and goodwill between Australia and Japan.
