


SESSION TOPIC	SESSION DESCRIPTIONS
Uchikomi-geiko	<p>Uchikomi = "to beat with intent."</p> <p>Keiko = "to practice." Or as sometimes interpreted, "to inherit teachings from previous times."</p> <p>Basically, we're going to begin with a Big Drum Up, and to beat with all our body, heart and mind!</p>
Yataibayashi	<p>Yatai = festival cart (float).</p> <p>Hayashi = a type of music. Also, an ensemble comprising Shimedaiko (often two), Odaiko (not always huge), Atarigane (<i>aka</i> Kane or Chanchiki) and Shinobue (horizontal blown bamboo flute).</p> <p>Yataibayashi = festival cart music from the 350 year-old Yo-matsuri (Night Festival), which is held annually on December 3 in the town of Chichibu, Saitama Prefecture.</p>
3 Elements	<p>There are three central motivic elements involved in the performance of the Odaiko (large drum) part of Chichibu Yataibayashi:</p> <p>O-nami = "large wave"</p> <p>Nagai-te / Mijikai-te = a series of heavily syncopated phrases</p> <p>Dokon-tama = series of emphatic beats that lead into new sections</p> <p>Sessions will be devoted to exploring these three elements.</p>
<p>O Δ □</p> 	<p>In a lecture about the taiko music used in Chichibu Yataibayashi, the head of the Takano family referred to this Buddhist pictogram/symbol in reference to the above three motivic elements used in the performance of the odaiko part. There are numerous interpretations, one of which is:</p> <p>O = "the mind" - serenity and perfection; the source of unlimited techniques</p> <p>Δ = "the body" - generation of energy and stable physical posture</p> <p>□ = "solidity", the basis of applied control</p>
Kihon	<p>Kihon = "the basics" or " basic forms".</p> <p>We never stop practicing Kihon Waza (techniques).</p>
Hachijo	<p>Hachijo = the name of a small island off the coast of Tokyo, which is home to an original form of drumming that places a Nagado-daiko on its side on a high stand. The Hachijo style (form), rhythmic patterns and songs are unique in taiko.</p>

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Odaiko	<p>Odaiko = large or grand drum. Technically, Odaiko refers to the largest Nagado-daiko in a collection of taiko. However, in more recent times, the tendency is to attach the name to a Nagado-daiko of 84cm (2.7-shaku) or above.</p> <p>In the 1970s, Eitetsu Hayashi and the group Ondekoza developed the style of playing the Odaiko with the player facing the skin of the taiko (as opposed to playing side-on). It is now the most common way of playing the Odaiko.</p>
Improvisation	<p>Improvisation = in musical terms, to create music 'on the spot'. Improvisation, sometimes called 'ad libbing', (from ad libitum – literally 'according to pleasure') is a common feature of taiko playing.</p> <p>The Odaiko is especially suited to extended improvisation. These sessions will explore approaches to 'ad libbing' on the largest taiko.</p>
Kihon Odaiko + Phrases	<p>This session concentrates on playing basic phrases on the Grand Drum. This is an effective way of building musical material for use in improvisation.</p>
Odaiko Improvisation / Round Robin	<p>This session brings together Odaiko and Yataibayashi. We will combine the two drumming forms in a continuous cycle that sees everyone moving from one drum to another. The Odaiko part is created 'on the spot' through improvised phrases and an end 'cue' to signal the entrance of the next player. Each Odaiko section is separated by Yataibayashi phrases (O-nami & Nagai-te or Mijikai-te).</p>
Katsugi Okedo	<p>Katsugu = "to carry on one's shoulder"</p> <p>Oke = "barrel"</p> <p>Dō = "body"</p> <p>Okedo = "barrel body drum"</p> <p>Katsugi Okedo = "slung drum"</p>
Katsugi Okedo Uchikomi	<p>This session will incorporate playing the basic strokes and a variety of phrases on the Katsugi Okedo. It will also involve movement.</p>