

# taiko zürich

art of japanese drumming in ZH & FR

## Structure & Aims

**Fundamental Training** is a weekly session for all members to enjoy. After a thorough warm-up and light stretching, the teacher will lead various technique and rhythm exercises to challenge both mind and body. This is followed by a review and expansion of repertoire. Through regular training of kumidaiko not only do we strive to improve coordination, rhythm, ambidexterity, strength, speed and endurance, but also to cultivate a culture of consideration, tolerance and respect. Each training begins and ends by reflecting on these points when bowing to the group as well as at the entrance of the dojo:

- Respect for your teacher
- Respect for the dojo and instruments
- Respect for your fellow members
- Respect for yourself
- Respect for the art

All members register to a specific weekday on a first come-first serve basis for a semester. If they will be absent for a training session, it is possible to shift to another date in advance.

**Open Renshu** is an additional training session when the dojo is open for all members to practice together in a group or independently. This time can be used voluntarily to review songs and improve skills learnt in fundamental training. Weekly exercises will be recommended by the teacher to help members solidify techniques and rhythms. Common group work is done in the main training room. Individuals working on solo material can do so simultaneously in the entrance room with moderate focus and the aid of hearing protection. Open rensu sessions are supervised, not led, by either the teacher or a selected senior student. Participation for active members is free, while alumni members pay a CHF 5 drop-in fee.

**Community Outreach** encompasses any events in which the school has agreed to collaborate to further develop the art form or to promote multiculturalism with taiko as a means of self-empowerment, discipline, and expression. They are extracurricular and therefore participation is completely voluntary.

Regular events such as our biennial Taiko Spirit Festival, annual Taiko ZH Concert, and the annual SOLA relay race are open to all current members. However, the opportunity to perform is a privilege that can be earned by:

- having an 80% attendance in the month before an event
- being present at the rehearsals
- having an open mind and a positive attitude
- working as a team to proactively prepare equipment
- refining repertoire to a high performance-level quality

Many members are eager to contribute but they themselves or the teacher may feel they are not yet technically or emotionally ready to perform. In this case, they are welcome to show their support and gain valuable experience by helping with preparatory and backstage tasks as well as supporting the team with kakegoe.

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**Intensive Training** is a multifaceted approach to developing members into engaged and skilled taiko artists. Admission requires a positive attitude, motivation, commitment, and talent, which will all be measured by way of an entry audition, a short letter of motivation and subsequent regular progress assessments.

The programme features weekly, high-level training sessions, in which members are pushed musically and physically with challenging and exciting rhythms, playing styles and repertoire. Members are expected to maintain regular attendance and to take an active role as participants. As members gain experience they will be asked to contribute to the development and presentation of warm-ups, stretching, playing exercises, and eventually composition of pieces for the group. Members will be given the opportunity to explore and excel in the following aspects of kumidaiko:

- Shinobue
- Atarigane
- Chappa
- Horagai
- Minyo
- Odori

The programme also requires involvement within the other aspects of Züri Daiko such as community outreach and open renshu. Fundamental training is recommended to review and maintain solid rudimentary playing skills, is available at no extra cost.