

Residency Activities

Somei Yoshino Taiko Ensemble is available to present workshops, master classes and lecture demonstrations for children and adults. The group has had experience with school age children from elementary through high school and adults, young and old. These workshops cover the fundamentals of taiko playing: stance and form, stick technique, spoken rhythms, correct etiquette and philosophy.

Elementary School Assembly Programs (K-6)

The 45-minute educational program teaches K-6 students about the origins of taiko and Japanese music through performance, storytelling and audience participation. *Rei* or cultural etiquette and communication in the study of taiko is introduced.

Middle & High School Assembly Programs (K-12)

The 55-minute educational program shares the art of taiko and Japanese music through performance, demonstration and audience participation. The four elements of taiko: *Karada* (Discipline of Body), *Kokoro* (Discipline of Mind), *Waza* (Musical Skills), *Rei* (Communication, etiquette) are introduced.

Hands-On Taiko Workshops

Available for children (7-15) and adults (16 and older) with all levels of prior experience. A hands-on introduction to playing taiko from form and philosophy, to history and oral tradition, including learning a short song.

Lecture Demonstrations

An overview of taiko and Japanese music background and history including early uses and origins of Japanese instruments such as taiko, shakuhachi, shamisen (Japanese banjo), fue (bamboo flute) in Japanese and Asian culture.

In addition, an overview of American Taiko and its context in Asian-American history is included by SYTE member Ellen Reiko Bepp, who was an original member of San Jose Taiko, the third taiko group to be established in the United States.