



YAMATO the Drummers of Japan
USA and Canada Tour 2025



"Hito no Chikara"
THE POWER OF HUMAN STRENGTH



YAMATO the Drummers of Japan

YAMATO is a Japanese Taiko drumming group based in Asuka-mura Nara Prefecture which is well known by Japanese people as the hometown of Japan. They call themselves “YAMATO, the Taiko drumming group that travels all over the world”. They have given more than 4,500 shows across 54 countries around the world since their formation in 1993.

YAMATO’s Taiko work cannot be fully described by the word “performance”.

They have performed in theaters, schools, all types of events, and even held workshops and Taiko lessons. They are spending a half year on a Japan tour and a half year for the world tour. Their motto is “We go everywhere when somebody needs YAMATO! And bringing energy to the people living in the world!”. They bring joy to the world.

On stage, they are standing with more than 40 Taiko drums and all of them are having different characters. For example, their largest drum called “Odaiko”, produced from a huge tree over 400 years old, is approximately two meters in diameter and weighs 500 kg. All other Taiko drums are different sizes and have different sounds.

The members of the group have trained their bodies to the limit to beat these massive Taiko drums.

The acoustic pressure far surpasses what one could imagine.

They do not simply make their Taiko drums explode with sound; they produce delicate music that provides the listener with a palette of meticulously crafted sound. This is why YAMATO’s original performances are known as “Physical music”, and continue to receive high acclaim all over the world. YAMATO is sometimes intense, sometimes sad, sometimes comforting, and in the next moment comical on stage.

The audience is more than a group of bystanders at their performances.

The audience is engulfed in the sound of the Taiko, and sweat, cry, and laugh; they become one with the performers. All types of people gather around the sound of the Taiko, interweaving their lives, and feeling the power of each other’s inner passion and heart.

They come together to create an instant in which they truly feel alive.

“Taiko drumming, to the unexplored field.”

YAMATO is still traveling around the world.

「人の力」 "Hito no Chikara" - The Power of Human strength

Technology is a tool,
It is humans who wield it.

With the advancement of technology,
An era where technology possesses intelligence.

Will humans become tools used by technology?
What will become of human existence?

In this age where humans are alive,
Beat the Taiko drum.

Made of a huge wooden body and cowhide,
Resonating with the power of the human body.

It is the heartbeat.

The Power of Human strength.

Message

“Artificial intelligence” has become a major topic of discussion recently.

Since the birth of humankind, people have been repeatedly making ingenious efforts to make our lives more convenient and better. The development of science and technology.
One of the products of this development is artificial intelligence.

It is said that "artificial intelligence," technology as a tool for people to use, has the potential to surpass people.

It is said that artificial intelligence will take on many of the tasks that have been done by humans.

Will people be used by the tools they have created?
Or will we no longer need people in the future?

What will happen to taiko drumming?
Will there ever be a machine that can play taiko with unparalleled accuracy?
Will advanced algorithms make them sound human-like?

Leaving that aside...

Let us beat the taiko as we are YAMATO.
The sound that one strikes resonates with the human heart.
The sounds struck by the heart, resonating with each other, will become “Hito no Chikara” - The Power of Human strength.

We do not know when the end of humanity is, but we will strike until that moment.
Like the beating of the heart that will continue to beat as long as we live.

Introductions of Taiko and instruments

Miya-daiko

This is a beer-barrel shaped drum with tacked heads made of one big piece of wood (Japanese cypress, zelkova and oak).

It was brought to Japan from China through Korea around the 15th century.

The Miya-daiko is used mainly for Japanese traditional festivals.



Hirado-daiko

These Taiko drums are made in the same way as Miya-daiko.

The body is much shorter than Miya-daiko.



Okedo-daiko

These are made from Japanese cedar and are in the style of a Japanese barrel.

Many pieces of wood are put together to make an Okedo-daiko.

There are various sizes. The biggest Okedo-daiko in Japan is 480 cm in diameter.

The small Okedo-daiko made light so that it can be played while being carried.

Musicians frequently play this type of Taiko drums at the Shishimai (Japanese dance-like play) or Kabuki.



Shime-daiko

Shime-daiko was brought to Japan from Kudara (Korea) around the 6th century.

Its body is made of zelkova or pine tree which is hollowed out inside.

Cow skin is put over each end and fastened with a rope.

This Taiko drum has a high-pitched sound and is often used to play fast rhythm.



Chappa

A small bronze cymbal, the Chappa was used widely in the ancient Near East. Passing along the Silk Road, it was first brought to China, and then to Japan around the Nara Era. It is often used at religious services.



Shamisen

One of the best-known Japanese instruments, the Shamisen is used to provide accompaniment to different styles of vocal music and theatrical performances. The Shamisen came to Japan from China via the Ryukyu Island and was fashioned into its current shape during the 16th century. It has a long thin neck and a box which resonates when its three strings are plucked with a big plectrum called Bachi.

The Shamisen became widely popular from about the 17th century. Today it can be heard accompanying Kabuki, Bunraku and Joruri performances as well as traditional dances and folk songs.



Koto

The Koto was introduced to Japan in the Nara Era as one of the instruments used in Japanese court music and dance from China in the Tang Dynasty. The first Japanese Koto was the Chikushi Koto. The unique composer Kenko Yamada used the Koto as his main instrument.

Before that the Koto was only used as an accompaniment.

Yamada continued improving the instrument in cooperation with Koto master Fusayoshi Shigemoto and together they created a new type of Koto of about 180cm wide.

This increased the volume of sound dramatically. The sound also became much clearer.

Yamato's Koto is the original Yamada Koto and the production method and playing technique have been passed down until today.

The best sound quality for the Yamada Koto is acquired with a hollowed out Paulownia tree forty to fifty years old having a diameter of about 40 cm.



Shinobue

The Shinobue is a Japanese flute made from shino-bamboo.

There are twelve types of Shinobue flutes, each having seven holes.

