

# Taiko Educational Guide

For teachers of upper elementary grades

Ōn Ensemble, 2010



The following materials are intended to assist teachers in giving students context and background for a deeper appreciation of Ōn Ensemble's musical performance, and to assist teachers in relating the taiko presentation to students' other studies.

The *Background for Teachers* section provides historical, cultural, and artistic information about the artform of taiko and about Ōn Ensemble in particular. A quick read of this material should empower teachers to answer students' questions and suggest additional directions for study.

The exercises contained in the *In-class Lesson Materials* section attempt to relate taiko concepts to students' other studies with a variety of fun, engaging exercises. Though the exercises are divided into subject categories, there is significant overlap, and room for adjustment in any subject direction.

Should teachers or administrators have questions or other content ideas, please let us know! Feel free to contact Ōn Ensemble directly by phone or email.

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# 1 Background for Teachers

## 1.1 What is Taiko?

In Japanese, the word *taiko* simply means “drum”, and it can refer to any drum, from any type of music. Snare drum = *snare taiko*, bongo drum = *bongo taiko*, etc. The word *taiko* is written 太鼓, and pronounced “tie” “kō” with no accent on either syllable.

Outside Japan, the word *taiko* often refers to the genre of percussive music using Japanese drums (known more specifically as *kumidaiko* in Japan).

## 1.2 A Brief History

The taiko genre started in the 1950’s, when Japanese musicians began creating music with traditional Japanese drums as the focus. Though the drums had existed for centuries in other traditions like Kabuki and Noh, it wasn’t until the 50’s that the drums became the focus of the performance. Groups like Osuwa Daiko and Sukeroku Daiko in Japan established the genre, and internationally-touring Kodo and Ondekoza helped to spread the artform around the world.



Osuwa Daiko



Oedo Sukeroku Taiko



Kodo

In the US, San Francisco Taiko Dojo is generally credited as the first taiko group. It was founded in the late 60’s and was followed soon after by San Jose Taiko, and Kinnara Taiko in Los Angeles. The genre was quickly adopted by third-generation Japanese-Americans looking to reclaim their heritage and cultural roots following their parents’ and grandparents’ rejection of Japan during WWII and in light of the internment camp experience.



San Francisco Taiko Dojo



San Jose Taiko



Kinnara Taiko

There are now over 100 taiko groups in the United States, and hundreds more throughout the world. There is a handful of professionally-performing groups based in major US cities, supported by a network of community-based groups. Every two

years *Taiko Conference* is held in the western US, attended by almost 1000 players from around the world.

### 1.3 What is Ōn Ensemble?

Ōn Ensemble is a professional taiko quartet based in Los Angeles CA. Its music is distinguished by the extensive use of non-Japanese instruments and musical influences including Tuvan throat singing, turntable scratching, and drumset. The group's four members was born in the US and has trained extensively with teachers both here and in Japan. Unlike many taiko groups that seek similar in form and style in all its players, each of On Ensemble's members brings unique skills and styles to the group.

Recorded music and video of Ōn Ensemble is available at [OnEnsemble.org](http://OnEnsemble.org) and is released under a Creative Commons license making it free to copied for non-commercial purposes.

### 1.4 Who plays taiko?

Everyone! Taiko players can be as young as two and as old as 92 (as far as we know!) People of all ages, and both men and women play taiko. In fact, there are more women than men playing taiko in the US. Although the artform has its roots in Japanese and Japanese-American culture, people of all races and ethnicities play taiko.

### 1.5 Is Taiko Traditional?

The short answer is “no”. Although the drums have existed for centuries, and play important parts in some of the oldest Japanese musical traditions, it wasn't until the 1950's that ensemble Japanese drumming as we know it today came into being. Technically, taiko is newer than rock and roll!

### 1.6 The Lingo: Taiko terms and pronunciation

The pronunciation of Japanese vowels is somewhat similar to Spanish.

**a** — “ah”, as in “car”

**e** — “eh”, as in “bread”

**i** — “ee”, as in “free”

**o** — “oh”, as in “low”, but without the lips narrowing with “w”

**u** — “oo”, as in “poo”

**ai** — “eye”

**ei** — “ay”, as in “hay”

The “r” sound is a “hard r”, like in Spanish, produced by a quick flip of the tongue against the top of the mouth. Here are some commonly mis-pronounced words.

**anime** — should be “ah” “knee” “meh”

**karate** — should be “kah” “rah” “teh”

sake — should be “sah” “keh”

Here are a few of the Japanese terms Ōn Ensemble may use in the performance.

**Ohayou gozaimasu** — “Ohio” “go” “zai” “moss”: Good morning

**taiko** — “tie” “koh”: drum

**“So-re!”** — “Soh” “ray”: Ready, start!

**matsuri** — “mah” “tsoo” “ree”: festival

Here are a few fun words and phrases.

**Jya ne!** — “Jyah” “neh”: An informal goodbye for friends, like “See you later!”.

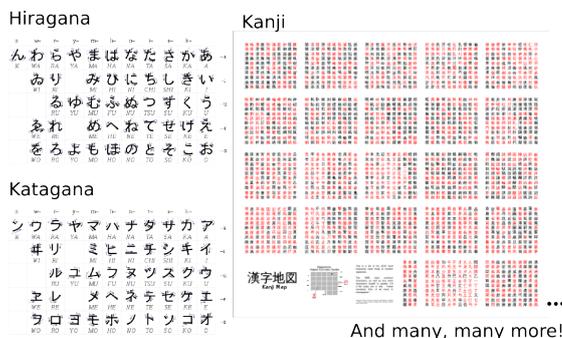
**Sayonara** — “Sah” “yo” “nah” “rah”: A more formal goodbye, when the parting is more substantial.

**Otsukaresama!** — “Oh” “tsoo” “kah” “reh” “sah” “mah”: A very nice way of saying, “good work!” after someone has finished something. Can be said after completing a project, or when a parent returns home from work.

**Arigato gozaimasu** — “Ah” “ree” “gah” “toh” “go” “zai” “moss”: A formal, “thank you very much.” The “gozaimasu” can be omitted when speaking informally.

## Kanji: Word Symbols

Japanese writing uses four different alphabets; *hiragana* is a set of 46 letters, from which all Japanese words can be produced; *katakana* is a similar set of 46 letters, used to write foreign words; *kanji* is a set of more than 10,000 commonly-used symbols, each representing a whole word or idea. Students in Japan also learn how to read and pronounce the English alphabet, since it is used by so many people around the world. This means that every student in Japan learns English letters, plus two other alphabets, plus 10,000 other symbols!



And many, many more!

Here is an example of a Japanese sentence.

ジャックの木が咲いています。

Jack's tree is in bloom.

(The か letter is used to denote the subject of the sentence; Jack’s tree.)

## 2 In-Class Lesson Materials

### 2.1 Language Arts

CHALLENGE: How many Japanese words do you know already? Make a list with your classmates. 5 is average, 10 is great, 15 is amazing!

Possible answers:

- anime
- arigato
- banzai
- Bridgestone – inversion of founder’s name “Ishibashi”, or stone-bridge
- Honda – family name
- kamikaze
- kampai
- karate
- kimono
- manga
- Mitsubishi – three rhombuses aka three diamonds
- Nissan – shortened from “Nippon Sangyo”, or Japan Industries
- sake
- samurai
- sensei
- Sony – From ”sonic”, or sound and ”sonny,” used in 1950s America for “boy”
- Subaru – Pleiades star cluster
- sushi
- Toyota – family name
- tsunami

Although many of the kanji symbols are very abstract pictures, some of them look a lot like their meanings.

木 = tree

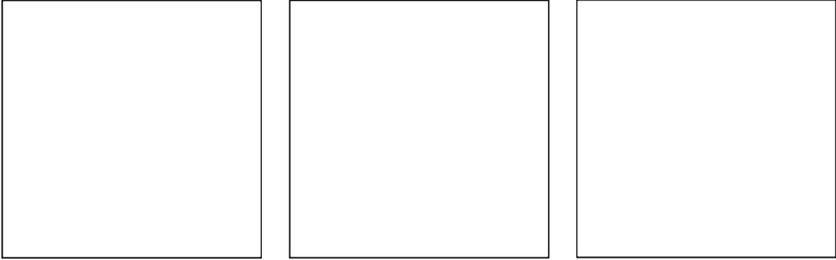
川 = river

口 = mouth

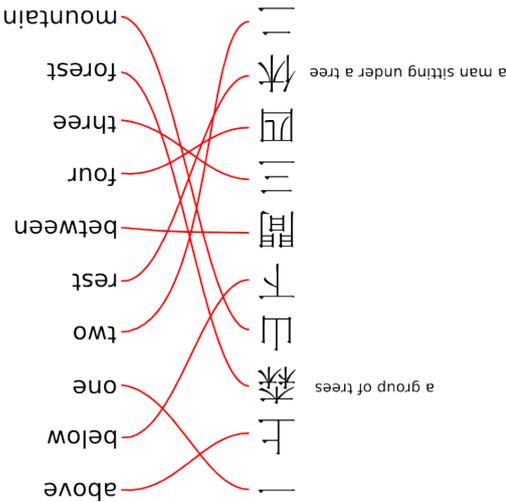
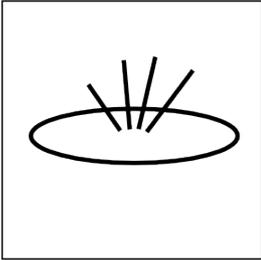
CHALLENGE: Can you guess the meanings of these kanji?  
(Answers on the following page.)

一	above
上	below
森	one
山	two
下	rest
間	between
三	four
四	three
休	forest
二	mountain

CHALLENGE: Create three of your own kanji to represent three things you like. Your kanji should be fast to draw but still look like their meanings. Abstract is okay!



Here's the kanji I made up for the word "drum".



## 2.2 Mathematics

### Clapping Calculations

*Clapping Calculations* is a fun game for practicing simple addition, subtraction, division, and multiplication and can be adapted for students from first to sixth grade. The instructor calls out equations and a cue to begin clapping, “Two plus two, go!” Students must then clap the answer in time. Beyond basic addition and subtraction, the instructor can utilize the following.

Multiplying by 0 — “Five times zero, go!” Did anyone accidentally clap?

Multiplying by 1 — “Four times one, go!”

Dividing by 1 — “Three divided by one, go!”

Dividing a number by itself — “Six hundred and fifty three thousand, two hundred and nine, divided by six hundred and fifty three thousand, two hundred and nine, go!”

### Taiko Tack Tabulation

The following word problem can be solved in a variety of ways by students of different ages. At the most basic level, students can count the visible tacks and estimate the number of invisible tacks. At the most advanced, students can try to calculate the exact number based on drum circumference. The problem can be tackled as individuals or in teams.

Yoko the drum builder is planning to make two nagado taiko like the ones seen below.



She has the wood for the bodies, the rawhide for the heads, and the handles for the sides of the drums. She now needs to purchase the tacks. The tacks come in boxes of 100. The trick is, she doesn't know how many boxes she needs to buy. She knows that the tacks are 1" apart. The small drum is 16" in diameter and the big drum is 21" in diameter. How many boxes of tacks should she buy?

## 2.3 Visual Arts

### Draw that Drum!

**CHALLENGE:** What do you remember most from the performance? Draw a picture that includes at least one instrument you saw Òn Ensemble use. Send it to Òn Ensemble and we'll put it on our website!

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## 2.4 Science

### Taiko Tones

Which of these drums do you think makes a low, booming sound? Which one do you think makes the highest-pitch sound?

**CHALLENGE:** Can you figure out why these drums make different sounds? Pay close attention to their shapes and sizes.

## 2.5 Music

### Percussion, Wind, and String

What is a “percussion” instrument? A percussion instrument makes a sound when hit. The snare drum, the triangle, and the xylophone are all examples of percussion instruments because they are hit in order to produce sounds.

Not every instrument is a percussion instrument. How do the trumpet, flute, and saxophone make sound? Obviously we don’t hit them... we blow into them. We call these instruments “wind” instruments, because the movement of air through them makes sound.

What about the violin and the cello? We don’t hit them either. We call these instruments “string” instruments because their sound is produced by vibrating strings.

Is the piano a percussion instrument or a string instrument? Why? (It’s both!)

CHALLENGE: Page 11 (and back side, pg 12) of this guide contains images of some of the instruments that On Ensemble uses. Cut the page along the dotted lines so that each instrument is its own card. Have students discuss whether each is a “percussion”, “wind”, or “string” instrument, or something else. For instruments never seen before, have students guess what the instrument will sound like based on its construction.

CHALLENGE: Download the `name_that_instrument` audio file from <http://onensemble.org/educational-materials/>. It contains samples of each instrument pictured on page 15. Play the recording for students and have them try to guess which pictured instrument makes each sound.

CHALLENGE: Students get sixty seconds to write down as many instruments as possible. Extra points for rare instruments! See attached example list of over 600 instruments!



<p><b>Puili</b> "poo" "ee" "lee" Origin: Hawaii Construction: bamboo</p> <p>Played with sticks, makes dry, rattling sound.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 ♪))</p>	<p><b>Kane</b> "kah" "neh" Origin: Japan Construction: brass</p> <p>Played with a hard beater made from deer antler. Makes three different bell-like sounds.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">2 ♪))</p>	<p><b>Tantan</b> "tahn" "tahn" Origin: Brazil Construction: wood body, plastic heads</p> <p>Played with sticks, makes low drum sound.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">3 ♪))</p>	<p><b>Koto</b> "koh" "toe" Origin: Japan Construction: wood body, nylon strings</p> <p>Traditionally plucked with right hand, left bends notes. On Ensemble also plays koto with small sticks.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4 ♪))</p>
<p><b>Uchiwa Daiko</b> "oo" "chee" "wah" Origin: Japan Construction: wood handle, metal ring, cowskin head</p> <p>Played with sticks, the uchiwa daiko, or fan drum, has a "thinner" sound than the other taiko.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">5 ♪))</p>	<p><b>Shaker</b> Origin: various Construction: varied</p> <p>Shakers exist in many different types of music. You can make one with almost any container and rice, beans, or other small things inside.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6 ♪))</p>	<p><b>Throat singing</b> Origin: various, recorded ver. similar to Tuvan style</p> <p>Two styles demonstrated in the recording: kargyraa which makes a low drone, and sygyt which produces a high whistle overtone.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">7 ♪))</p>	<p><b>Fue</b> "foo" "eh" Origin: Japan Construction: bamboo</p> <p>Japanese side-blown flute with seven finger holes.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">8 ♪))</p>
<p><b>Cymbal</b> Origin: various Construction: brass</p> <p>On Ensemble uses a variety of cymbals alongside the taiko.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">9 ♪))</p>	<p><b>Shime</b> "she" "may" Origin: Japan Construction: wood body, rope, cowskin heads</p> <p>Played with sticks, the shime makes a high-pitched drum sound.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">10 ♪))</p>	<p><b>Chappa</b> "chah" "pah" Origin: Japan Construction: brass</p> <p>Japanese hand cymbals can make a variety of tones depending on how they are hit together.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11 ♪))</p>	<p><b>Kiai</b> "kee" "eye" Origin: Japan</p> <p>Vocal shouts used to encourage other players and to give musical cues. This kiai, "so-re", means "Ready, start!".</p> <p style="text-align: right;">12 ♪))</p>
<p><b>Nagado Daiko (skin)</b> "nah" "gah" "doh" Origin: Japan Construction: wood body, metal tacks, cowskin heads</p> <p>Played with sticks, the nagado daiko is the quintessential Japanese drum.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">13 ♪))</p>	<p><b>Tamborine</b> Origin: various Construction: wood handle, metal jangles</p> <p>Tamborines come in all shapes and sizes, some with drum heads and some, like this one, with only jangles.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">14 ♪))</p>	<p><b>Turntable scratching</b> Origin: US Construction: standard turntable, standard mixer</p> <p>By moving the record quickly, high tones can be created. Moving it slowly makes low tones. The left hand controls an on-off switch called the cross-fader.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">15 ♪))</p>	<p><b>Nagado Daiko (rim)</b> Origin: Japan Construction: wood</p> <p>In addition to the skins of the taiko, the wooden rims make useful sounds.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">16 ♪))</p>

# World instruments list

## Wind instruments

Balaban (Iran)  
 Bansuri (India)  
 Conch  
 skinflute (Korea)  
 Dizi (China)  
 Duduk (Armenia)  
 Didgeridoo (Australia)  
 Diple (or Dvojnice) (Croatia)  
 Fife  
 Flabiol  
 Flageolet (France)  
 Fújara (Slovakia)  
 Gemshorn (Germany)  
 Hocchiku (Japan)  
 Hun (Korea)  
 Irish flute  
 Inci (Philippines)  
 Kaval (Armenia)  
 Khloy (Cambodia)  
 Khlui (Thailand)  
 Koudi (China)  
 Nadaswaram (South India)  
 Ney (Iran)  
 Nohkan (Japan)  
 Nose flute  
 Ocarina (Italy)  
 Organ pipe  
 Paixiao (China)  
 Palendag (Philippines)  
 Pan pipes  
 Pasiyak or Water whistle (Philippines)  
 Persian (Iran)  
 Piano horn  
 Pulalu (Philippines)  
 Quena (South America)  
 Recorder (Germany)  
 Ryuteki (Japan)  
 Samponia (Peru)  
 Shakuhachi (Japan)  
 Shehnai (India)  
 Shinobue (Japan)  
 Shvi (Armenia)  
 Siku  
 Slide whistle  
 Suling (Indonesia/Philippines)  
 Tin Whistle  
 Tonette  
 Tumpong (Philippines)  
 Tutek (Armenia)  
 Vertical flute  
 Washint (Ethiopia)  
 Western concert flutes  
 Piccolo  
 Flute  
 Alto flute  
 Bass flute  
 Contra-alto flute  
 Contrabass flute  
 Subcontrabass flute  
 Double contrabass flute  
 Hyperbass flute  
 Whamola  
 Whistle  
 Willow flute (Scandinavia)  
 Xiao (China)  
 Xun (China)  
 Yotar  
 Zufolo (Italy)

## Single reed instruments

Alboka  
 Arghul  
 Chalumeau  
 Clarinets  
 Alto clarinet  
 Bass clarinet  
 Basset clarinet  
 Basset horn  
 Clarinette d'amour  
 Contra-alto clarinet  
 Contrabass clarinet  
 Piccolo clarinet (A<sub>3</sub> clarinet)  
 Soprano clarinet (E<sub>3</sub> clarinet, D clarinet)  
 Soprano clarinet (C clarinet, B<sub>3</sub> clarinet, A clarinet, G clarinet)  
 Octocontra-alto clarinet  
 Octocontrabass clarinet  
 Folgerphone  
 Launeddas (Sardinia)  
 Mijwiz  
 Octavin  
 Pibgorn (instrument)  
 Robero (Spain)  
 Saxophones  
 Alto saxophone  
 Baritone saxophone  
 Bass saxophone  
 C melody saxophone  
 C Soprano saxophone  
 Contrabass saxophone  
 Mezzo-soprano saxophone (Alto in F)  
 Soprano saxophone  
 Soprano saxophone  
 Soprillo  
 Subcontrabass saxophone  
 Tenor saxophone  
 Tubax  
 Tarogato (modern single-reed)  
 Zhaleika (Russia)

## Double reed instruments

Bassoon

Contrabassoon/Double bassoon  
 Tenoroon  
 Bifora (Sicily)  
 Bombarde (France)  
 Cromorne  
 Crumhorn  
 Dulzaina (Spain)  
 Dulcian  
 English Horn  
 Guan (instrument) (China)  
 Heckelphone  
 Piccolo heckelphone  
 Terz heckelphone  
 Kèn bầu (Vietnam)  
 Nadaswaram (India)  
 Oboes:  
 Bass/Baritone oboe  
 Contrabass oboe  
 Cor anglais/English horn  
 Oboe d'amore  
 Oboe da caccia  
 Piccolo oboe  
 Rackett  
 Contrabass á anche / Reed contrabass  
 Sarrusophones  
 Alto sarrusophone  
 Baritone sarrusophone  
 Bass sarrusophone  
 Contrabass sarrusophone  
 Soprano sarrusophone  
 Soprano sarrusophone  
 Tenor sarrusophone  
 Shawm  
 Sralai (Cambodia)  
 Suona (China)  
 Surnay  
 Tarogato (original two-reed variety)  
 Trompeta china (Cuba)  
 Tromboon  
 Zurna (Armenia)

## Bagpipes

Bagpipe  
 Gaida (The Balkans)  
 Uilleann pipes

## Brass instruments

Air horn  
 Alphorn  
 Baritone horn  
 Baroque trumpet  
 Bass trumpet  
 Bass Trombone  
 Bazooka  
 Bugle (instrument)  
 keyed bugle  
 Cimbasso  
 Cornet  
 Cornett  
 Didgeridoo  
 Doulophone/Cuprophone  
 Double bell euphonium  
 Euphonium  
 Fiscorn  
 Flugelhorn  
 Flumpet  
 Helicon  
 Horagai  
 Horn/French horn  
 Jug  
 Kuhlohorn  
 Lituus  
 Mellophone  
 Ophicleide  
 Piccolo trumpet  
 Pocket trumpet  
 Post horn  
 Quinticlave  
 Roman tuba  
 Sackbut  
 Saxhorn  
 Saxotromba  
 Saxtuba  
 Slide trumpet  
 Subcontrabass tuba  
 Serpent  
 Shofar  
 Sousaphone  
 Tenor Horn/Alto Horn  
 Trombone  
 Trumpet  
 Tuba  
 Tube trumpet  
 Vienna horn  
 Wagner tuba

## Free reed instruments

Accordion  
 Button Accordion  
 Chromatic Accordion  
 Free Bass Accordion  
 Agidigbo  
 Array mbira  
 Bandoneón  
 Bawu  
 Bayan  
 Comb  
 Concertina  
 Electric thumb piano  
 Harmonica  
 Harmonium  
 Hulusi  
 Jew's Harp (or Jaw harp)

Kalimba  
 Khene  
 Kisanji  
 Kouxian  
 Likembe  
 Lusheng  
 Mangtong  
 Melodica  
 Melodeon  
 Mbira (Sanza)  
 Morsing  
 Musete  
 Musical box  
 Pipe organ (some pipes; others are woodwind)  
 Saenghwang  
 Sanza (Mbira)  
 Recorder  
 Sheng  
 Thumb piano  
 Tom (instrument)  
 Yu

## Voice

Alto/Contralto  
 Baritone  
 Basso/Bass  
 Beatboxing  
 Castrato  
 Countertenor  
 Death growl  
 Falsetto  
 Kazoo  
 Mezzo-soprano  
 Microphone/megaphone  
 Overtone/Throat singing  
 Soprano  
 Talkbox  
 Tenor  
 Vocal Percussion

## Free aerophones

Bullroarer  
 Harmonica  
 Lasso d'amore  
 Megaphone  
 Siren  
 Whip

## String instruments

Aeolian harp  
 Ajaeng (Korea)  
 Appalachian dulcimer (United States)  
 Archlute  
 Arpeggione  
 Baglama (Turkey)  
 Balalaika (Russia)  
 Bandura(Ukrainian)  
 Banjo  
 Barbat (Iran)  
 Baryton  
 Berimbau (Brazil)  
 Biwa (Japan)  
 Bordouna  
 Bouzouki (Greece)  
 BurkDaBeast  
 Cello (Violoncello)  
 Chapman stick  
 Charango (Peru)  
 Cimbalom  
 Electric Cymbalum  
 Cittern  
 Clavichord  
 Crwth  
 Cuatro  
 Dahu (China)  
 Đàn bầu (Vietnam)  
 Đàn gáo (Vietnam)  
 Đàn nguyệt (Vietnam)  
 Đàn tam thập lục (Vietnam)  
 Đàn tranh (Vietnam)  
 Đàn tỳ bà (Vietnam)  
 Dihu (China)  
 Domra (Kazakhstan)  
 Double-neck guitjo  
 Double Bass  
 Dutar (Central Asia)  
 Duxianqin (China)  
 Ektara (India, Pakistan)  
 Erhu (China)  
 Erxian (China)  
 Faglong/Fuglung (Philippines)  
 Fegereng (Philippines)  
 Fiddle  
 Fortepiano  
 Gayageum (Korea)  
 Guzheng (China)  
 Gehu (China)  
 Geomungo (Korea)  
 Gopuz (Azerbaijan)  
 Gottuvadhyam (India)  
 Guitars:  
 Acoustic bass guitar  
 Acoustic guitar  
 Bass guitar  
 Chitarra battente (Italy)  
 Cigar box guitar  
 Classical guitar  
 Dobro  
 Electric guitar  
 Flamenco guitar  
 Harp guitar  
 Seven-string guitar  
 Slide guitar

# World instruments list (continued)

Steel guitar  
Tailed bridge guitar  
3rd bridge guitar  
Ukulele  
Yotar  
Guitarra quinta Huapanguera (Mexico)  
Guitarrón (Mexico)  
Gusli (Russia)  
Guqin (China)  
Guzheng (China)  
Haegeum (Korea)  
Hammered dulcimer  
Hardanger fiddle (Norway)  
Harmonico  
Harp  
Harpichord  
Hegelung (Philippines)  
Huluhu (China)  
Huqin (China)  
Hurdy gurdy  
Igil  
Irish bouzouki  
Jarana (Mexico)  
Jarana de son jarocho  
Jarana huasteca  
Jarana mosquito  
Jarana segunda  
Jarana tercera  
Jiaohu (China)  
Kadlong (Philippines)  
Kamancha (Persia)  
Kantele (Finland)  
Khim (Thailand/Cambodia)  
Kobza (Ukraine)  
Kokyu (Japan)  
Komungo (Korea)  
Kora  
Koto  
Kubing (Philippines)  
Kudyapi (Philippines)  
Langeleik (Norway)  
Laruan (China)  
Leiqin (China)  
Lirone  
Lute  
Lyra (Cretan) (Greece)  
Lyra (Byzantine) (Byzantine Empire)  
Lyre  
Maguhu (China)  
Mando-bass  
Mandocello  
Mandola  
Mandolin  
Mohan veena (India)  
Morin khuur (Mongolia)  
Musical bow  
Nyckelharpa (Sweden)  
Octave mandolin (Octave mandola)  
Octobass  
Oud  
Piano/Pianoforte  
Piccolo violin  
Piccolo 'cello/violoncello piccolo  
Pipa (China)  
Psaltery  
Quatro  
Rebab (Afghanistan)  
Rebec  
Requinto jarocho (Mexico)  
Ruan (China)  
Rudra vina (India)  
Sallameh (Iran)  
Sanshin (Okinawa)  
Santoor (India)  
Sanxian (China)  
Sarangi (India)  
Sarod (India)  
Saung (Burma)  
Saw sam sai (Thailand)  
Saz  
Se (China)  
Shamisen (Japan)  
Setar (lute) (Persia)  
Sitar (India)  
Stroh violin  
Sopranino mandolin  
Tamburitza (Croatia/Serbia)  
Tanpura (India)  
Tar (lute) (Persia)  
Tea chest bass  
Tenor viola  
Theorbo (Europe)  
Timple  
Tres  
Tro (Cambodia)  
Trumpet marine/tromba marina  
Tsybaly (Ukraine, Belarus)  
Tuhu (China)  
Ukulele  
Valiha (Madagascar)  
Veena (India)  
Vertical viola (and other members of the violin octet family)  
Vichitra vina (India)  
Vielle  
Vihuela (Spain)  
Viol (also called as Viola da gamba)  
Viola da gamba  
Viola  
Viola d'amore  
Violin  
Violotta  
Washtub bass  
Whamola  
Xalam/Khalam  
Yayli tanbur  
Yazheng (China)

Yangqin (China)  
Zhonghu (China)  
Zhuihu (China)  
Zither  
Overtone zither

**Percussion instruments**

**Drums**

Abia drum  
Agung a Tamlang (Philippines)  
Bass drum  
Bodhrán (Ireland)  
Bongo drum  
Cajñ (Peru)  
Chenda (India)  
Conga (Caribbean)  
Cuica (Brazil)  
Dabakan (Philippines)  
Def (Middle East)  
Dhol (India)  
Dholak (India)  
Djembe (West Africa)  
Drum Kit  
Goblet drum  
Geduk (Malaysian)  
Ingoma (Rwanda, East Africa)  
Ighumurizo  
Inyahura  
Ishakwe  
Janggu (Korea)  
Kettle drum  
Kendang (Indonesia, Malaysia and Philippines)  
Khol  
Lambeg drum (Ireland)  
Maadal (Nepal)  
Mridangam (India)  
Naqara (Middle East)  
Octaban  
Panderó (Mex)  
Sabar (Senegal)  
Sampho (Cambodia)  
Snare  
Steel drum (Trinidad and Tobago)  
Surdo (Brazil)  
Tabla (Pakistan, India)  
Taiko (Japan)  
O Daiko (Japan)  
Tsukeshime Daiko (Japan)  
Okedo Daiko (Japan)  
Uchiwa Daiko (Japan)  
Hira Daiko (Japan)  
Tsuzumi (Japan)  
Ookawa (Japan)  
Shime-Jishi Daiko (Japan)  
Kakko (Japan)  
Tan-tan  
Talking drum  
Tambor huacana (Mexico)  
Tamboril (Uruguay)  
Chico  
Repique  
Tamborita (Mexico)  
Taphon (Thailand)  
Thavil (India)  
Timpani (kettledrums)  
Tom-Tom

**Other percussion instruments**

Agogó  
Agung/Agong (Philippines)  
Agung a Tamlang (Philippines)  
Ahoko  
Array mbira  
Babendil (Philippines)  
Bell  
Bianqing (China)  
Bianzhong (China)  
Bones  
Boomwhackers  
Cajón  
Carillon  
Castanets  
Caxixi (Brazil)  
Chime  
Ching  
Clapper  
Claves  
Cowbell  
Crotales  
Crash cymbal  
Hi-hat cymbal  
Ride cymbal  
Splash cymbal  
Zil (Finger cymbal)  
Cymbalum  
Fangxiang (China)  
Flexatone  
Gamelan (Indonesia)  
American gamelan  
Gangsa  
Gendér  
Ugal  
Gandingan (Philippines)  
Gandingan a Kayo (Philippines)  
Ganzá  
Ghatam (India)  
Glass marimba  
Glass harmonica  
Glockenspiel  
Gong (Malaysian)  
Guban  
Guero  
Hands

Clapping/finger snapping  
Handbells  
Hang  
Hosho (Zimbabwe)  
Ipu (Hawaii)  
Kagul (Philippines)  
Kalimba (Africa)  
Kulintang/Kolintang (Philippines)  
Kulintang a Kayo (Philippines)  
Kulintang a Tinik (Philippines)  
Lamellaphone  
Luntang (Philippines)  
Maraca  
Marimba  
Marimbaphone  
Mbira  
Metallophone  
Musical Saw  
Piano  
Rainstick  
Ranat ek lek (Thailand)  
Ranat thum lek (Thailand)  
Ratchet  
Rattle  
Riq  
Shekere  
Singing bowl  
Slit Drum  
Spoons  
Steelpan (Trinidad and Tobago)  
Tambourine  
Triangle  
Trychel  
Timpani  
Tubular bells  
Udu  
Vibraphone  
Vibraslap  
Washboard  
Whip  
Xylophone  
Xylorimba

## Electronic instruments

electric saxophone  
Computer  
Denis d'or  
Dubreq Stylophone  
Drum machine  
Electronic organ  
Electric piano  
EWI  
Fingerboard synthesizer  
Hammond organ  
Kraakdoos (or Cracklebox)  
Laser harp  
Mellotron  
Ondes Martenot  
Turntables (record player/phonograph)  
Rhodes piano  
Sampler  
Synclavier  
Synthesizer  
Teleharmonium  
Tenori-on  
Theremin

## Keyboard instruments

Accordion  
Bandoneón  
Carillon  
Celesta  
Clavichord  
Clavinet  
Glasschord  
Harpichord  
Jammer keyboard  
Katzenklavier  
Keytar  
MIDI keyboard  
Organ  
Electronic organ  
Hammond Organ  
Pipe organ  
Piano  
Baby grand piano  
Electric piano  
Grand piano  
Honky Tonk  
janko piano  
Mechanical Piano  
Thumb piano  
Toy piano  
Upright piano  
Upright grand piano  
Viola organista

## Other

Crystallophones  
Hardart  
Hydraulophone  
Plasmaphone  
Pyrophone  
Quintephone  
Raghu Narayan (Bangalore)  
Sea organ  
Shishi odoshi (Japanese)  
Suikinkutsu (Japanese water zither)  
Wobble board (Australian)

### 3 Links to More Information

Wikipedia's entry for the term "taiko" contains accurate and useful information.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taiko>

Many of Ōn Ensemble's drums are made by Miyamoto Unosuke Shoten, drum maker to the Emperor of Japan.

<http://miyamoto-unosuke.co.jp/taiko/index.html>

This guide, audio and video recordings, and more information about Ōn Ensemble is available at the group's website:

[OnEnsemble.org](http://OnEnsemble.org)

Ōn Ensemble is always available to answer taiko-related questions. Please feel free to contact by phone or email:

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