

TAIKO

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Portfolio



Introduction of Taiko

Taiko is a music instrument that takes centuries in Japanese culture. Taiko is characterized by its sounds. For the 20th century taiko took an impressive turn with the mixing of several instruments at once. Taiko day by day has expanded and circulated around the world. In this essay we will discuss the history of taiko, the evolution of taiko, the differences between taiko in Japan and the United States as well as memoirs of my own experience with taiko.



History of Taiko

According to an article by scholars at Stanford University, taiko means "drum", it is also called "Japanese drum art". In another article, the taiko is defined as "fat". Taiko entered Japan through the influence of Chinese and Korean culture around the 6th century. The Stanford University article also points out, taiko was a military instrument. It has been assumed that Taiko was used when the enemy approached. Taiko was evolving over the centuries and taiko was adopted by the two main religions of Japan, Shintoism and Buddhism, as a "sacred" instrument. Buddhist, when played inside the temple, believe the sound of taiko represents the voice of Buddha.



Continue Taiko History

Taiko's powerful sound traveled around the villages in the past centuries. Taiko was used by the Japanese armies, for the Japanese armies it was very important for the reason that they could "march rhythm, order or announcements and intimidate the enemy" (New World Encyclopedia). Clearly you can see that Taiko was a motivating and intimidating sound for the soldiers in the battle. Taiko has been played for more than 2000 years. Taiko has a "culture and philosophy." Taiko is of "mythological origin," according to Japanese folklore. It tells the story of "barrel of sake".



Taiko the New Folk

Taiko is a "new folk" in Japan, acquires great strength in Japan and around the world (Bender 189). In this article compared with, taiko receives a very strong blow is "stereotyped" one of the reasons to compare Japanese and Americans performance. The Japanese are described as having "short legs and small bodies" and paired with the western belief that the Japanese are said to be inferior people compared to "white" people with "long legs and tall bodies". This statement is saying that the Japanese people who initiate the practice of taiko, the Japanese people have the right bodies to practice the art of taiko(Bourdieu 1830).



Taiko in the United States

The arrival of taiko to the United States was thanks to the jazz musician Daihachi Oguchi, he was the one who made the art of taiko popular in the United States. His great talent with jazz created a new style of taiko, he mixed jazz drums and taiko drums at the same time. According to the article, Daihachi Oguchi "revolutionized" taiko by joining several drums of various sizes and touching them at the same time. That is an impressive touch that quickly became popular in all the United States and the whole world. Also, the article emphasized "breaking with the tradition of taiko" It is incredible that a jazz teacher gives a different touch and broke that "taiko tradition" of many centuries. For example: Daihachi Oguchi, gave a positive change to the taiko, thanks to him we can now enjoy various sounds and movements of the people who are playing. Also for the Japanese culture must be very proud was recognized with honor "father of the art of the taiko musical ensemble".



Taiko Outside of Japan

According to an article by Stanford University, the first taiko group founded in 1968 in the city of San Francisco by the talented teacher Seiichi Tanaka, one of the best styles of that time. A year later another group of taiko was founded in Los Angeles, California of the Buddhist temple and finally another very important group was the taiko of San José, California, founded in 1973, creating one of the best places to learn to play taiko. According to the history of Stanford University, Taiko has been part of the university for 25 years, where students have the opportunity to learn the roots and learn to play all kinds of taiko (Robin Wonder). Also in the article we can see that taiko is a "phenomenon" of his country of origin the world and around the world. Taiko students at the university give it a unique style that makes the taiko also have its own style (Hickman). Approximately are 5000 groups practice taiko and 2000 around the world.

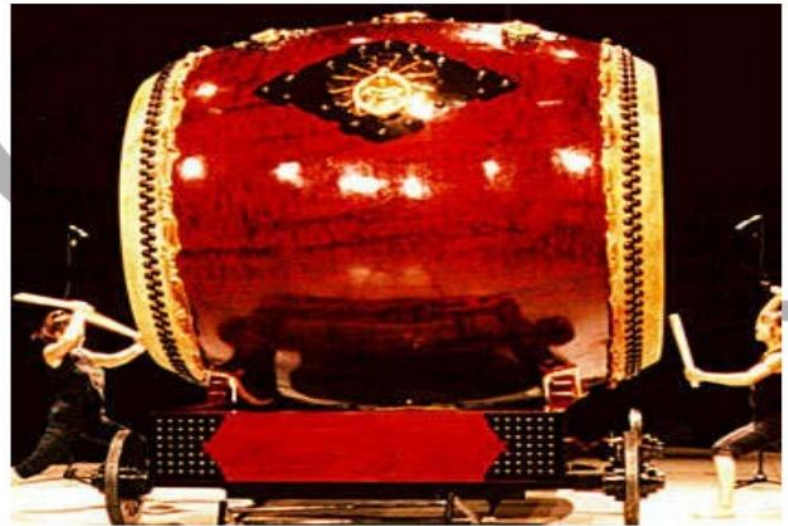


How made a Japanese and American Taiko

According to the article of the University, the archives are published very simple but it is also an art his sculpture, they are simply "barrels of wine" one of the reasons that are easier to make them, but it is done with the same The passion for the construction of the taikos of Japan. On the other hand, Japanese taikos have another type of construction, Japanese taikos have a special system called keyaki, this type of tree can live more than a hundred years. This type of tree is used to build a taiko for the reason of, according to experts in taiko builders, this type of tree has a "type of sound", something interesting that taiko is based on the age of the tree. For a construction of a taiko in Japanese it is a bit more durable for the reason that it is handmade. The interior of the Japanese taiko has a type of sound and each one has a type of sound. That's why the Japanese taiko is a bit more interesting (Stanford University). Include the bachi are made with special wood.

Japanese Taiko

World's biggest drum O' Daiko



Mi Personal Experience with Taiko

In 2013, I was in music class Ethnic Music in the United States. Then we had to attend music events in the community. My teacher in my class made the announcement of an event called "Taiko" in San Jose, California. I had no idea what is "Taiko" was and the teacher explained me with details and a video. I found it interesting. Immediately, I registered to participate in the taiko practice in "San José Taiko". I thought we were just going to see a bit of history and a presentation of the drums. After knowing a bit about the history of taiko, comes the most exciting I could play the drums. I had the opportunity to play the taiko for around two hours. In those two hours we had the opportunity to practice various forms of taiko, a small taiko and a regular taiko. I loved the sounds of drums. For me it was an experience that fascinated me for the reason that it was my first time that I had contact with drums of Japanese culture. Finally, after this experience with the taiko try to attend the events where there would be the opportunity to enjoy again the sound of taikos.



Continue My Personal Experience

The last event where I could once again enjoy the rhythm and sounds of taiko was at Steinbeck Museum in the city of Salinas, the event called "*Japanese Flower Grower in the Salinas Valley.*" The interesting thing about this last event was that I could see other kinds of taiko (drums) and something interesting that the group that played the drums were only women. At the end of the event I asked a girl if she could play the drums a bit. I love it play a taiko again, just only practice a couple of minutes.



Conclusion

Taiko can see that not only is it an instrument, it is an instrument with a lot of cultural value, mainly in Japanese culture. I made my imagination fly and tried to imagine how it was used by the taiko to encourage the enemy, how the Japanese religion adopted (Shinto and Buddhism). Sometimes interesting was learned about the evolution of taiko in Japan and around the world, especially in the United States. Finally, with my experience of taiko I learned something new of Japanese culture and I will never forget for the reason that is something



Stanford Taiko Video Celebrating 25 Anniversary



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