

TIASOU Method Workshops



TIASOU Is A Simple **O**ver-**U**nder Method

Does your group use the **shime-daiko**?

Are you **comfortable** rope-tightening the drum?

Would you like to learn more about how to prepare the drum **quickly and effectively**?

The shime-daiko is one of the most challenging instruments to prepare properly. Though it is intended to be tightened and loosened with every use, the difficulty of this preparation leads many taiko groups to leave their shime-daiko tight for months on end. The bright, powerful sound of the drum quickly dulls, and the life of the skins is dramatically shortened. Even drums that receive the benefit of regular tightening and release are often damaged by uneven tension, resulting in “clamshell” shaped drums. Shime tightening has a reputation for being time-consuming, awkward, and strenuous, and detailed information about the process has been exceedingly difficult to find.

Until now! Addressing this sad state of affairs, the TIASOU Method provides a detailed set of techniques for the proper rope-tightening of the shime-daiko. Based on traditional methods learned from master players and drum makers in Japan, the TIASOU Method allows nearly anyone to tighten the rope shime-daiko quickly and effectively. It emphasizes speed and comfort and provides numerous original techniques to improve tightening effectiveness and decrease strain on player and drum. The TIASOU Method focuses on form, control, and aesthetics, in the same way “kata” informs the playing of the drum. With the TIASOU Method, shime tightening can be fast and enjoyable, and can be a process that contributes to a deep understanding of this remarkable instrument.

TIASOU Method Workshops provide clear and complete instruction of the techniques and practice of the TIASOU Method. A total of 8 workshops cover the full-range of shime tightening techniques, from the basic principles to the most advanced, high-speed skills. Two of these workshops also cover shime-daiko playing techniques. All workshops are one hour and can be combined in series. Half-day, full-day, and two-day workshop series provide the ideal environment for learning and practicing the details of shime-daiko tightening.

TIASOU Method Workshop Series

Workshop 1 **TIASOU Method Introduction**

Participants new to the shime-daiko learn the parts of the drum, including proper terminology, a comparison of different shime-daiko types, and an overview of the general tightening process.



Workshop 2 **Preparing the Drum**

Participants learn the critical preparatory steps of shime tightening, including aligning the heads, tying the start-knot, and lacing the drum properly. Many in this workshop see the inside of their own drums for the first time.



Workshop 3 **Tightening, Stage One**

Shime tightening is a two-stage process and participants in *Tightening, Stage One* learn the TIASOU Method's innovative two-agebatchi system. This process makes this critical agebatchi stage comfortable and effective.



Workshop 4 **Tightening, Stage Two**

Participants learn the traditional Japanese one-person method of stage-two tightening, involving standing on top of the drum, plus TIASOU Method tips for making the process efficient and safe.



Workshop 5 **Advanced Techniques**

This workshop provides advanced techniques to speed shime tightening and tune form for safe physical exertion. With practice, these techniques enable stages one and two to be completed in less than 20 minutes.



Workshop 6 **Repairing Uneven Heads**

Sadly, a large percentage of shime-daiko in the United States suffer from uneven tension. Workshop participants learn how to avoid the dreaded “clamshell”, and how to repair already-damaged heads.



Playing Workshop 1 **Basic Hand Technique**

Basic drills and exercises explore various batchi holding styles and striking techniques. Participants leave with critical drills for playing fast and relaxed.



Playing Workshop 2 **Tsukeshime Sounds**

The shime-daiko offers an amazing array of aural possibilities. In addition to the drum’s standard “ten teke” sounds, this workshop explores five new sounds, the techniques used to produce them, and how to utilize these sounds in performance.



Private Lessons **Individual Instruction**

1-hour, 1.5-hour, 2-hour, and 10-lesson series private lessons provide direct instruction and maximum feedback. Recommended especially for players with a newly purchased shime-daiko.

Workshop Materials, Preparation:

Facilitator provides agebatchi. Participants must bring rope-style shime-daiko (ideally one drum for every 2-3 participants), and a towel or blanket (one per drum) for padding beneath the drum and player. Participants should wear comfortable clothing. Many workshops will require participants be barefoot.

Workshops can contain as many as 20 participants, of all ages and experience levels. The TIASOU Method emphasizes form over power and participants needn’t be particularly muscular. However, because shime tightening is a physical procedure involving the entire body, participants should be in good health and free from back, leg, or shoulder injuries. Participants with minor injuries should alert the facilitator before the workshop begins.

Depending on the condition of the drums and the focus of the workshop(s), shime-daiko and ropes must sometimes be unlaced and/or repaired prior to the beginning of the workshop.

Previous TIASOU Method Workshop Participants:

Members of groups across the United States, including Portland Taiko, San Jose Taiko, and the Kenny Endo Taiko Ensemble, have taken **TIASOU Method Workshops**. A detailed workshop was well received at the 2003 North-American Taiko Conference and groups including Stanford Taiko and Kodama Taiko have taken series workshops. Hundreds of young taiko players will participate in **TIASOU Method Workshops** at the upcoming 10th Annual Intercollegiate Taiko Invitational.

TIASOU Method Workshop Prices:

Individual workshops are usually combined in series to form longer workshops. Workshops 1 and 2 can be combined, for example, forming a two-hour workshop covering an introduction to the shime-daiko and the techniques necessary to prepare the drum for tightening. For participants familiar with shime tightening, workshops 2, 3, and 4 can be combined into a single, three-hour workshop, covering the bulk of the TIASOU Method. Two-day workshop sessions cover all aspects of the TIASOU Method, including advanced techniques, both playing workshops, and provide extra time for feedback and practice. Prices do not include transportation and/or lodging fees, necessary when facilitator travel is required. Fees are subject to change.

TIASOU Method Workshops	
1-hour (single workshop)	\$150
2-hours (two consecutive workshops)	\$250
3-hours (three consecutive workshops)	\$350
full-day, 6-hour workshop set (six workshops)	\$650
two-day, 2×6-hour workshop set (all eight workshops)	\$1250
6-session series (six in-depth, 3-hour workshops)	\$1800

Shime-Daiko Playing Workshops	
1-hour	\$150
2-hours	\$250

Private Lessons	
1-hour	\$40
1.5-hour	\$60
2-hours	\$75
10-lesson series (10 × 1-hour)	\$375

43cm (17in) Japanese-oak agebatchi are available for purchase at \$40 per pair. Various shime-daiko rope types and batchi are also available upon request.

About the Facilitator:

After graduating and leaving Stanford Taiko in 1999, Kristofer Bergstrom studied traditional Japanese music and dance in northern and central Japan until 2002. He began developing the TIASOU Method in 2001, noting a lack of information on shime tightening in the United States. He now lives in Los Angeles and performs regularly as a member of Ōn Ensemble. He returns to Japan regularly to continue his study of taiko, shime tightening, and nagauta shamisen.

Contact:

For additional information or to reserve a **TIASOU Method Workshop**, contact Kristofer Bergstrom by email at kris@tiasou.org or by phone, 310-350-8825.

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