



Taiseiyo Taiko Ireland in association with **axis**  
presents  
**Taiko Ballymun**

*Straight from Japan, the rhythm and energy of Taiko drumming as performed by a master of the art*

Art Lee, winner of the prestigious 2005 Tokyo International Wadaiko Competition's Solo Odaiko Section, gives his first ever performance in Ireland amidst a series of events in Ballymun that celebrate Japanese culture.

Known for his electrifying speed and power, Art Lee is the first non-Japanese ever to obtain a visa to lead the life of a professional Taiko artist in Japan. He balances modern interpretations with a deep respect for Taiko's traditional roots, and he has collaborated internationally with Indian, Korean, African and Western musicians and dancers.

Taiseiyo Taiko, Ireland's only Taiko ensemble is delighted to bring this master artist and performer to Ireland. His first ever Irish appearance will showcase the best Japanese Taiko – with an Irish twist.

Join Art Lee and Taiseiyo Taiko Ireland in **axis** to feel the beat and experience the very best in Taiko drumming – never seen in Ireland before.

**Venue** axis, Main Street, Ballymun, Dublin 9

**Dates** 1<sup>st</sup> – 4th March

Performance: 4<sup>th</sup> Mar @ 8pm.

Tickets: €12/10 (special group rate €8.50)

Masterclass: 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Mar,

Open Workshop: 3<sup>rd</sup> Mar 4pm – 6.30pm

**axis** booking

Box Office is open weekdays from 9am – 5pm and for 90 minutes before events. For Booking or information call (01) 883 2100 or email [info@axis-ballymun.ie](mailto:info@axis-ballymun.ie)



Art Lee, artist and performer of the Japanese art form known as taiko (wadaiko), is the first non-Japanese ever to obtain an artist visa from the Japanese government to lead the life of a professional taiko artist in Japan.

Art Lee first began the study of taiko in 1993 from the Sacramento Taiko Dan with whom he later became a featured performer and instructor. He later joined one of the world's most famed taiko groups, Za Ondekoza for their U.S. and Japan Tour, which culminated in a landmark concert at Carnegie Hall.

Art Lee became a solo performer after moving to Japan in 1998. On November 14th, 2001, Art exploded onto the world scene when he became the first person in the world ever to be granted an un-sponsored artist visa from the Japanese government to teach, perform, and lead the life of a Professional Taiko Artist in Japan.

On October 15th, 2005, Art took another massive step in the world of Taiko once again when he became the first non-Japanese to win First Place in the Solo Odaiko section of the most prestigious and renowned taiko contest in the world - The Tokyo International Wadaiko Contest.

In addition to his teaching and solo performing schedule, he is the resident instructor of various local taiko groups in Japan including Koihime Daiko and Tento. He is also the Founder and Artistic Director of Wadaiko Ensemble TOKARA, whom he has lead to become one of Japan's most unique taiko groups, touring nationally and internationally two to four times a year.

Art is also a performing member of Osuwa Daiko - Ashura-Gumi, which is lead by Grandmaster Daihachi Oguchi, the person who is famed for creating taiko as a performance art over 50 years ago.

Utilizing his extensive training in both traditional and modern taiko techniques, Art Lee continues to perform all over the world, as well as teach in both English and Japanese to taiko enthusiasts and newcomers alike. He has also composed music for various events within Japan and abroad, including the 2002 Beijing World Music Festival, the 120th Anniversary of Taipei City in 2004, and the 2005 and 2006 World Festival in Music and Dance.

His concert tours, compositions, and workshops are requested repeatedly. Highly acclaimed concert tours to date include: EXISTENSION, Fuyu no Kodama (Winter's Echo), Michikusa, Toward the Undiscovered Country, and more. Art Lee has performed twice in the world's most highly acclaimed and distinguished taiko concert, the Aoyama Kenbunroku...once with Grandmaster Daihachi Oguchi in 2004, and once as a solo performer in 2006.

Among his many disciplines of the art, he has become most widely known for his Odaiko solos, and his unique style and solo while performing on the drum sideways, called Yokomen-uchi.



Taiseiyo Taiko Ireland was founded in 2006 by Jennifer and Patrick Edmond. Jennifer and Patrick discovered Taiko drumming in 2003, when they attended a concert given by the Scottish-based group Mugenkyo. They later attended a workshop at Mugenkyo's dojo in North Lanarkshire, and became hooked on the energy and grace that is Taiko drumming.

They continue to expand their experience of Taiko through further workshops in Scotland and in Japan, where they have trained under both Masaaki Kurumaya Sensei and Art Lee, and taken briefer instruction from Katsuji Kondo, Hiroshi Motofuji, Akime Jige, Shidara and Daihachi Oguchi Sensei.

The name Taiseiyo (pronounced "tie - say - yo") is derived from the Japanese name for the Atlantic Ocean. It evokes the power of the sound of the drums and the grace of the drummers' movements. It also reflects the connection between Ireland, an island nation on the edge of a great sea, and Japan, half way around the world at the other edge of the great Eurasian landmass.

For more press information please contact David McCadden in Kate Bowe PR on 01-6713672 or [david@katebowepr.ie](mailto:david@katebowepr.ie)