

7 Ways to Boost Taiko Musicianship

Taiko players refer to a wide variety of reasons for taking part in the art form. Today's rapidly growing global taiko scene means that more and more participants are searching for relevant information and new techniques. Here are seven recommended ways to boost anyone's taiko musicianship.

- 1. Sing everything you play.** Practicing this way will add life to the music and communicate your artistic vision through the drum.
- 2. Learn to play the other parts of the piece.** Only then will you have the deepest understanding of how the parts fit together.
- 3. Play along with recorded music.** Choose songs in any genre which will excite and inspire you. Then, internalize the material to make it your own.
- 4. Listen to traditional music which includes taiko.** Look into sources such as festival music, noh and kabuki, and gagaku for invaluable insight and context.
- 5. Practice improvisation.** Work toward gaining fluency playing the drum in a similar way to the spontaneity of everyday conversation.
- 6. Focus on sound.** Drum maintenance, stick choice, and attention to beating spots all make a big difference.
- 7. Study with a musical teacher.** Whether it's through private lessons, workshops, or ongoing classes, continue to foster your own artistic growth.

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