

New this Fall @DanzArts Studio Taiko Drum Classes!

Classes Wednesday Nights 8:00-9:00pm. Classes begin August 27th!

You saw it perhaps for the first time in our spring recital now you can learn Taiko!
Class size is limited to 6 so sign up ASAP to reserve your spot. Open to teens and adults ages 12 and up.



Ben Blystone is a multi-faceted music teacher and performer, having received his Bachelor of Music from the University of Texas at El Paso and his Master's of Music from West Texas A&M University School of Music. Besides having taught band, choir, and general music in the public schools, Ben has also performed professionally in choir, opera, musical theater, orchestra, and big band jazz. He also has many years of experience in the field of music technology, studio recording, and music production.

Ben has been performing taiko in Des Moines for almost two years with Soten Taiko ("Blue Sky" Taiko), which is a taiko group affiliated with the Japan America Society of Iowa (JASI). Ben became the artistic director early in 2014 and has been conducting taiko workshops and performances with Soten Taiko, including being part of the featured group in the 2014 CelebrAsian festival here in Des Moines at the state capitol. Ben has a long standing interest in Japanese culture and enjoys participating in taiko, kendo, and reiki in Des Moines. Ben currently teaches private voice lessons in the Des Moines metro area from his home studio.

With the help of the Japanese Society of Iowa we are able to offer this class at DanzArts.
Because of this, enrolling in this course we be slightly different than our regular classes.

- 1) You must be a yearly member of the JASI to enroll please follow this link to register:
<http://www.japaniowa.org/membership/>
If link does not work instructor will have printed forms first day of class.
- 2) Students will need to get their own bachi (drum sticks). Here is the site to order them:
https://www.google.com/shopping/product/8348783301267833078?hl=en&output=search&q=bachi&oq=bachi&gws_rd=ssl&ei=Yo_0U7GCIISwyATVzIKgBQ&ved=0CH0QpiswAA
- 3) There will be a \$5 per month rental fee for the drums which DanzArts will pay to JASI.
For the fall semester (8/27-1/11) drum rental fee will be **\$20** Sept/Oct/Nov/Dec.
For spring semester (1/12-5/12) drum rental fee **\$25** Jan/Feb/March/April/May
- 4) Tuition for 17 week fall or spring semester with tax included: **\$266.59**
- 5) Unlike our other classes at DanzArts we will not charge a recital fee but this class will be performing in our recital. The instructor will talk with students about a performance fee for this class that will cover outfit etc. There will be many performing events with the Taiko group that you may be interested in performing for.