



2023-24 Educator Resource Guide



San Jose Taiko

March 14, 2024 –12:30 p.m.



With a myriad of offerings allowing your students to explore their identity and the identity of others, this season's Amcor Education Series has a show for everyone.

Thank you for allowing your Fox Cities Performing Arts Center to partner with you to provide your students with engaging educational arts experiences.

For any questions, contact the education sales team at (920)730-3786 or educationsales@foxcitiespac.com.

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Education Series
Title Partner:



Education Series
Co-Partners:



Thank you to our partners for making this performance possible!

Education Series Title Partner



Education Series Co-Partners



Community Partners

*David, Kim
and Max Ritzow*

A note from our Series Title Partner – Amcor

At Amcor, we make the packaging you use every day on your food and beverages, healthcare products, personal care items and more! As a global leader in packaging design and material science, Amcor is proud to sponsor programs in STEM education and the arts in the communities where we have operations. We are thrilled to support the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center and their efforts to provide enriching educational programming for young people in our area. Enjoy the show!

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Co-Partners:



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Welcome to the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center!



When entering the Fox Cities Performing Arts Center, remember to **show respect for others and your environment** so everyone can fully enjoy and participate in the experience.

- During the performance, the performers can see and hear you, so give them your full attention. Unlike a video, we can not rewind and replay a scene if we miss it.
- **Applause** is the best way to express how much you enjoyed the performance! For other Theater Expectations tips, visit our website [here](#).
- **Important things to remember:**
 - Student backpacks, gum, drinks and food are not allowed in the theater.
 - Cell phones should be turned off and stowed.
 - Note that recording or taking photos in the theater is strictly prohibited; however, photos may be taken in the lobby.
 - It's a long way down – please do not drop items off balconies.

Be prepared to arrive early

- You should plan on arriving to the Center 20 minutes before the show. Allow for travel time, parking and trips to the restroom.

Questions about your show reservation? Contact our education sales team at (920) 730-3786 or educationsales@foxcitiespac.com.

Health and Safety

- The Center has created a touchless experience with the Evolv Express Security System. Upon entry, all bags entering the building are subject to search and prohibited items will not be allowed.
- Teachers and chaperones are discouraged from bringing bags, however, necessary backpacks or bags may be searched and tagged before being allowed in the theater.
- We ask that students leave their backpacks at school for Amcor Education Series performances. However, if students do bring them, they are subject to search and will need to be checked at the registration table in the lobby upon entry.

Accessibility Services

- To best serve the needs of you and your students, please indicate if you have individuals who require special services or seating needs upon making your reservation.

Please see our complete list of policies at foxcitiespac.com.

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About the show

In an innovative, cultural, drumming experience, San Jose Taiko will take you on a journey through Japan, highlighting and expanding on the beauty of the taiko art form. Explore San Jose Taiko's contemporary musical style that respects taiko's Japanese roots in a choreographed and theatrically lit extravaganza. Forming connections with the community, audiences will join in this celebration of Japanese/Japanese American culture. Come feel the synergy in this transformative performance between the drummers and their instruments as they enhance each other's power through musical storytelling.

Wisconsin Academic Standards

MUSIC

- Standard MG 3 – RESPOND: Students will critically interpret intent and meaning in order to evaluate artistic work.
- Standard MG 4 – CONNECT: Students will relate prior knowledge and personal experience with music to cultural and historical context.

SOCIAL STUDIES

- Standard SS.BH2: Wisconsin students will investigate and interpret interactions between individuals and groups (Sociology).
- Standard SS. Geog4: Wisconsin students will evaluate the relationship between identity and place.

WORLD LANGUAGES

- Standard 5: Global Competence and Community Engagement (GCE) – Students use the target language and cultural knowledge to investigate the world, recognize diverse perspectives, interact and exchange ideas with people from diverse backgrounds, and engage with others to improve conditions within their local and global communities.

Lesson One

Objective: Consider the human connection to music as a listener and as a performer.

Materials:

- Paper
- Writing Utensils
- Computer access (or phone to play song)

Activity:

- Ask the students the following questions:
 - What music do you respond to/like to listen to? What about the music connects you to it?
 - If you perform musically, what influences your decisions as a performer?
 - How can others “read your expressive intent (what you are feeling or meaning in the performance) when you are creating music?
- Students will write a paragraph or more on a musician or genre of music and provide reasons why they connect to it. (You may want to go around and confirm the songs with the students to make sure they are school appropriate.)
- When they have completed their writing, have them get in small groups.
- In these small groups, have the students play part of their song that they connect to (or the song by the musician they connect to) and share why they connect with their peers.

Did You Know?

In Japanese, taiko means “drum” and the art of Japanese drumming is known as kumi-daiko. For centuries, taiko has been a part of the Japanese culture. When it was developed, taiko was mainly used in the military arena, but as it evolved it became a sacred instrument. The kumi-daiko performance as an ensemble was created by a jazz drummer, Daihachi Oguchi, who stumbled across a piece of taiko music.

In North America, taiko has become a beloved form of drumming. The first North American Taiko group, the San Francisco Taiko Dojo was created in 1968. San Jose Taiko closely followed in 1973, with a focus on making taiko a Japanese American art form.

Source: <https://web.stanford.edu/group/stanfordtaiko/cgi-bin/history.html>

Lesson Two

Objective: Students will explore Japanese writing through the popular poetry form of haiku.

Materials:

- Writing utensils
- Paper

Activity:

- Pre-Activity: Review the meaning of syllables.
- One of the most famous forms of poetry was created in Japan, known as the haiku.
 - The most famous haiku author is Basho.
 - Haiku subjects mainly focus on nature.
- Format of a haiku:
 - First line: 5 syllables
 - Second line: 7 syllables
 - Third line: 5 syllables
- Typically, the lines do not rhyme.
- Optional: Take students outside on walk around the school.
 - Have them make note of a nature element or object.
- When you return to the classroom, have the students write a haiku about the element or object they observed.
- Share the poems with the class.

In The Spotlight

Japan is an island country of the east coast of Asia consisting of a great string of islands through the Pacific Ocean. Nearly the entire land area is taken up by the country's four main islands: Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku and Kyushu. The capital of Japan is Tokyo, one of the world's most populous cities. The landscape is mainly made up of mountains and volcanos. The most popular, and highest mountain is Mount Fuji.

One unique aspect of Japan is that it is a country possessing an intricate and ancient cultural tradition, yet it has, since 1950, been at the forefront of one of the world's most economically and technologically advanced societies.

Source: <https://www.britannica.com/place/Japan>

What's Next?

Don't let this experience end with the drop of the curtain. Keep the conversation going with your students and reflect on the performance that you just attended.



Here are a few questions to get the conversation started!

What was your favorite part of the performance?

How did these performers transition from song to song to make the show flow?

Describe the music you heard. How did the music make you feel?

How many drums do you remember seeing? How did they sound differently from each other?

How does this performance add to what you knew/thought about drumming?

If you were going to tell a friend about the performance, how would you describe it in one sentence?

What excited you about the performance? On the following page, write or draw something that excited you or made you curious.

My Reflections

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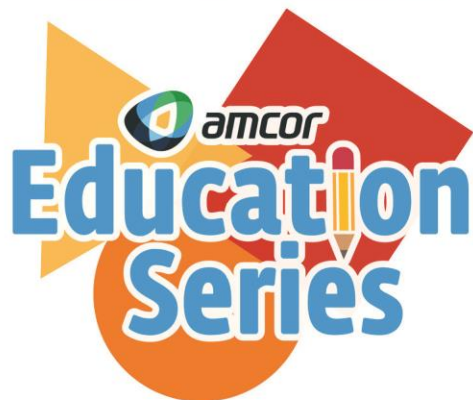


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Student Showcase



What was a light bulb moment for your students?
What was something new they learned?
Was it anyone's first time to the Center?
Share with us!

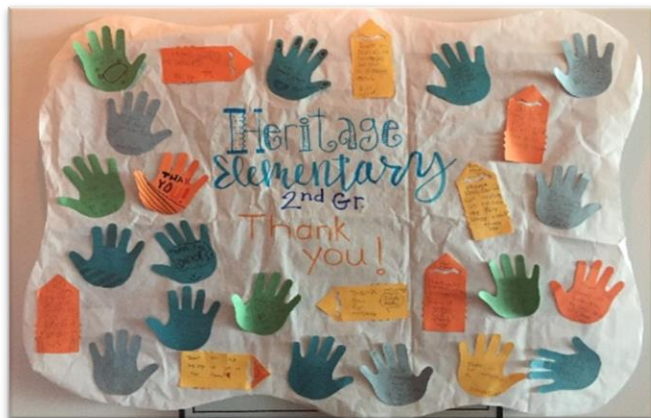
After your class attends the show we would appreciate photos, letters, posters and cards to share what your students are learning with our partners.

The Center's education programs are not possible without the support of our Annual Partners and grant funders. They enjoy learning about the schools and students that participate in the education programs so we would appreciate your help in telling the story.

Items may be sent via email to sstelzl@foxcitiespac.com or mailed/dropped off at:

Fox Cities Performing Arts Center
Attn: Sammi Stelzl
400 W. College Ave., Appleton, WI 54911

Thank you for your help in sharing the great work you are doing in the classroom with our partners!



Please note items will not be returned and will be shared with our partners and/or used in Center marketing materials.

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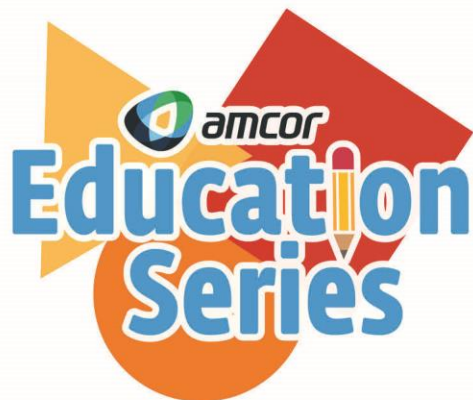


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Resources

Books

- "Basho: The Complete Haiku" by Matsuo Basho, Jane Reichhold (Translator)
- "Den of the White Fox" by Lensey Namioka
- "Lost Japan" by Alex Kerr
- "Pure Invention" by Matt Alt
- "Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes" by Eleanor Coerr
- "Samauri Spirit: Ancient Wisdom for Modern Life" by Burt Konzak
- "War of the Eagles" by Eric Walters

Websites

- Japan Facts: <https://japanese-online.com/>
- Kennedy Center Japan: Arts & Culture: <https://www.kennedy-center.org/education/resources-for-educators/classroom-resources/media-and-interactives/media/international/japan-arts--culture/>
- San Jose Taiko Website: <https://taiko.org/>
- Traditional Japanese Instruments: <https://www.japan-experience.com/plan-your-trip/to-know/understanding-japan/traditional-instruments-japan>
- Video of San Jose Taiko Drumming: <https://youtu.be/uOCfjwxedAU?si=6Vjhb30YHriVXyPm>

This resource guide was created for you by the programming team as part of The Boldt Company Beyond the Stage Education program. To download copies of this resource guide or to find additional resources for this performance or view past resource guides, please visit foxcitiespac.com and click on the education tab.

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