



Kasuga Ondeko Traditional Festival Drumming and Dance Intensive

Sado Island is famous for its Ondeko Festival. "Oni" ("demons") are not evil, but embody and personify human failings, natural disasters, diseases, impurities, and disharmony. As they dance from house to house during this festival, they draw out and drive away bad fortune, while inviting prosperity, good health, and harmony for the members of the families and community. With special permission, we have started the process of forming an Ondeko group here in North America, dedicated to studying and preserving Kasuga style Ondeko.

North American Taiko Community members who participated in the Kasuga Ondeko Matsuri this year are holding a special weekend intensive to prepare for next year's festival and to celebrate the delivery of our own masks, which were hand-carved by a craftsman on Sado Island. These masks have been ritually purified and blessed in a Shinto ceremony and will be delivered personally by the current "Kashira" ("leader") of the Kasuga Onigumi.

We are opening up the practice sessions to a limited number of outside observers and participants and hope to share Ondeko dancing and drumming with those who wish to learn more about aspects of traditional Japanese festivals and culture, and especially with those who are interested in the ongoing study and practice of Ondeko dancing or drumming. This intensive also serves as a fundraiser to help defray the costs of training and acquiring the traditional costume pieces. Please note that Ondeko dances are physically strenuous and require a moderate level of aerobic fitness and flexibility, the ability to lunge, to do deep knee bends, to skip and jump, and to play simple rhythms on a drum. To participate in the drumming accompaniment only, we ask that you have at least 1 year or more of taiko or percussion experience. Transportation to the dojo, meals, & lodging are not provided.

December 26

9am-12pm, 2pm-5pm, 6pm-9pm

December 27

9am-12pm

Registration Opens October 1

- \$75 / participant single 3-hour session
- \$200 / all-day Saturday only
- \$250 / full weekend by November 31
- \$275 / full weekend by December 20
- \$295 / full weekend on-site

to view a session please contact us via email as there is limited space available

for more information and registration check taikobaka.com starting October 1, 2015

