

FEBRUARY 2021

BST Community Music Newsletter

Using music to keep us connected. 🎵



THIS WEEK:

What are you listening to?	2
Music TED Talk Recommendation	3
Music Podcast Recommendation	3
Year 9 Podcast Project	4
Department Notices	4
BST Music Interview - Moko-sensei	5
Taiko at BST	6
Introducing the 'Music Ambassador's Performance Competition'	8
Performances of the month	9

MESSAGE FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

In this month's newsletter we are putting the spotlight on Moko-sensei and the wonderful Taiko community she has single handedly established and nurtured over the last twenty two years at BST.

We hope to get you excited about the musical opportunities that are available at BST and to engage more students across the school in musical activities once restrictions are lifted.

Our Music Ambassadors also introduce their own music competition to encourage more of you to share your talents with the BST community.



THE
BRITISH SCHOOL
IN TOKYO

WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO?

Suggestions from Lisa Sanderson (Year 10)

Joji	Ew	https://youtu.be/UGB_Bsm5Unk
Louis Tomlinson	Defenceless	https://youtu.be/nk37by3cO0Q
Arctic Monkeys	I Wanna Be Yours	https://youtu.be/fJLQcf4mFP0
Ricky Montgomery	Line Without a Hook	https://youtu.be/8JW6qzPCkE8

Suggestions from Tessa Poland (Year 9)

Vaundy	不可幸力	https://youtu.be/Gbz2C2gQREI
YOASOBI	夜に駆ける	https://youtu.be/xtfXl7TZTac
Aimyon	マリーゴールド	https://youtu.be/HnD789mMzfl
Given	冬のはなし	https://youtu.be/eTYS0zAMccs
LiSA	紅蓮華	https://youtu.be/BG24CRTNjCY

Suggestions from Jamie Perring (Year 10)

The Longest Johns	Wellerman	https://youtu.be/-KO7cofMJH0
The Kid LAROI	So Done	https://youtu.be/yasj3j76SyM
Livingston	Superkid	https://youtu.be/10zQhoOJEaU



WEEKLY MUSIC TED TALK

Daria van den Bercken, Why I take the piano on the road... and in the air

LINK

Pianist Daria van den Bercken fell in love with the baroque keyboard music of George Frideric Handel. Now, she aims to ignite this passion in others. In this talk, she plays us through the emotional roller coaster of his music – while sailing with her piano through the air, driving it down the street, and of course playing on the stage.



PODCAST RECOMMENDATION

Rolling Stone Music Now

LINK

When it comes to music, there has historically been no better source than Rolling Stone. This podcast covers everything from the breakdown of the biggest hits to the discussion on the life and times of some of the greatest artists ever to have lived from many of the magazine's well-known writers.



YEAR 9 PODCAST PROJECT

Just before half-term Year 9 students completed some fabulous podcasts showcasing their favourite artists and incorporating their own original music using the 'Soundtrap' (<https://www.soundtrap.com/>) platform.

We will be sharing outstanding examples in this and next month's edition.



Ariella Baran
presenting 'Eve'



Brendon Blu
presenting
'The Weekend'



Millie Bay
presenting 'Ashe'



Len Curran
presenting 'KSI'

MUSIC DEPARTMENT NOTICE

Secondary Advanced Musicians' Recital

Filming will take place in the Showa Music Room on Wednesday 10th March between 14:00 and 18:30. Performers will be informed of their rehearsal and filming time w/c Monday 1st March

Extra-curricular clubs will be phased back in once the emergency restrictions are lifted on Monday 8th March

Secondary Clubs Orchestra (without woodwind or brass)

Cello Ensemble, Advanced Ensemble Classes, Secondary String Ensemble, Jazz Band (core players excluding wind/voice)

Primary Clubs

Primary Cello Ensemble, Showa String Ensemble, Showa Ukulele (Year 5 only), Orffchestra

BST MUSIC INTERVIEW

MS MOKO IGARASHI, TAIKO TEACHER

Our BST taiko instructor Moko-sensei shares her exuberant spirit and love for taiko in this month's newsletter with Music Ambassadors Hattie and Aiko



Hattie: Is there any particular reason why you first started to learn and teach taiko?

Moko-sensei: That's a very good question. I'm Japanese, completely Japanese and I never knew anything about other countries except Japan. When I was young, in Year 3 I decided I wanted to become a school teacher. After I finished high school I went to a university that had a department of education, like a teachers' college. I chose a university up north. Have you heard of Sendai? It is a wonderful city in the Miyagi prefecture. That area had the earthquake ten years ago. In my first year at university I joined a taiko club over there. I had never played taiko before. I was about twenty years old and had only had a piano education because my mother was a piano teacher. I never knew anything about taiko. That taiko club also did dancing, Japanese singing and taiko. I had to learn the local dance, which I am actually not that good at. Then I fell in love with taiko because I love sports. I am very athletic, I did soccer, tennis and gymnastics and taiko is something that combines music, dancing, is very athletic, encourages teamwork and is very spiritual. So this is why I started taiko in my freshman year at university. That was about forty years ago so I must tell you that I am not young anymore. This spring I am going to be sixty years old! Can you believe it? So for forty years I have loved taiko and I keep on doing it. In the meantime, I was a school teacher also at one school in the Netherlands and the second school was in America. I came back to Japan in 1995. All the time I did taiko teaching and started taiko clubs. After I finished teaching in schools I started my own taiko school. This is my twenty fourth year - I started in 1997. This is my brief history!

Aiko: What makes Taiko different from other music?

Moko-sensei: This is an interesting question. Taiko is (like) a musical instrument, but lots of people join taiko who do not know anything about music. Taiko performance was part of village activity many, many years ago. People in the local village would say thank you to the harvest and would do taiko drumming, drink sake and do dancing and singing. After the second world war, taiko became like a performing art.



[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE FULL INTERVIEW!](#)



TAIKO AT BST

Taiko has been running at BST for over twenty years and has become a much loved activity by pupils, staff and parents alike. Moko-sensei was spotted and invited by former BST Music teacher, Ms Knight, to bring the traditional and exciting art form to the school. With the support of the PTA the school purchased a full set of taiko drums and in 1999 the taiko club was born.

As well as offering a taiko club, taiko has also become part of the Music curriculum at BST with primary students at Shibuya (Years 1, 2 and 3) having a term's worth of taiko lessons in addition to their class music lesson. Through these fun and interactive sessions students learn the basics of taiko and also learn about Japanese traditions and songs.

Over the years, Moko-sensei has helped to create and nurture an excellent group of taiko performers as shown by the last performance for the Christmas video concert. Here is a selection of pieces and videos that Moko-sensei has chosen that give us a snapshot of the vitality of her taiko sessions and the excellence of Moko-sensei's taiko club performers.



1. "*Buchiawase Daiko*" (Japanese traditional piece) This is one of the most popular pieces; is very lively and powerful. I learnt it at the very beginning when I started taiko in my university. The piece is related to the ocean and the movement of the player expresses "the waves". The piece starts by the individual player, but becomes "a team" performance after the middle section. Many times this piece is played at happy occasions in the community.

Video link: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/LVxG4LGdgCu9i6XW9>

2. "*Nebuta Daiko*" (Japanese traditional piece) This piece is based on the rhythm of "Nebuta Matsuri Festival" which is one of the most well known festivals in Japan. It's held in the Aomori prefecture. in August every year. There are so many people who come to see this festival from both Japan and from overseas. The main thing in this festival is not taiko, but the local people carry many paper balloon-dolls (huge) on the cart and make a parade through the city. The big drums also parade with the paper balloon-dolls. People dance everywhere on the streets when the carts come through. A unique thing is that there is a chant/voice included in this festival which makes the festival very lively.

Video link: <https://youtu.be/rUyn0jyT2eQ>

3. "Yama" (Composed by Sen Amano) This piece is the most special taiko piece I've learnt in my life. My late teacher, Mr Sen Amano, wrote this piece more than 40 years ago. The piece is based on the history of Yamanashi-pref. where he was based and it's a story about Samurai soldiers who devoted their lives to the country. There is a very serious and deep spirit throughout this piece and it's very powerful. The piece, "Edo no Hana", which my BST advanced students played at the Christmas film performance is also composed by Amano-sensei.

Video link: <https://youtu.be/Vz9sVcyHO4c>

This performance is by the Performing Group members of my Taiko School in Nov. 2017 at St. Mary's for a charity event.



If you are interested in Taiko at BST and want to know more, please contact Ms Moko Igarashi at taikoschoole@gmail.com



Click [here](#) to watch Year 2's 'Oni-san' Taiko Song for the Setsubun Festival.

INTRODUCING THE 'MUSIC AMBASSADOR'S PERFORMANCE COMPETITION'

From next month until the end of the academic year we, the Music Ambassadors, will be introducing and judging a music competition that will occur every 2 months.

Every 2 months there will be a set theme which any BST student can submit a related video performance of. The performance can be any style, genre and level. The winner will have their name displayed in the Music department 'Hall of Fame', and will be mentioned in the music newsletter, before also getting a house point.

The first theme (for March and April) will be ...

CHEERFUL

...so please send in performances which link to cheerfulness, happiness, and joy- which we especially all need during the pandemic.

[FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CLICK HERE!](#)



PERFORMANCES OF THE MONTH



Kent Rogers (Reception) performed at the All Japan Junior Classic Music Competition Preliminary No. 2 Concerto No. 5 in D Major, Op. 22, 1st Mvt by Friedrich Seitz. Bravo!

[Click here to watch!](#)



Isaac Horinouchi (Year 1) has been making excellent progress this term. Here is his performance of the Rieding concerto in B minor, 1st movt.

[Click here to watch!](#)



We really enjoyed **Emily Iwabuchi's (Year 2)** performance of 1st movement Allegro Moderato of Concerto no.1 Op.34 in G Major by Oscar Rieding

[Click here to watch!](#)



Jun Iwabuchi (BST Alumni currently at Ludgrove School- Year 8) expressively plays 'Ladies in Lavender' by Nigel Hess.

[Click here to watch!](#)



Tasuku Imada (Year 4) treats us to a performance of Tchaikovsky's 'Chanson Triste'

[Click here to watch!](#)



A delightful performance of 'Ringing Bell' by **Shinari Imada (Reception)**. Great bow control and concentration!

[Click here to watch!](#)

Do you have any musical news to share?

**Please send information to
Ms Danmeri (ldanmeri@bst.ac.jp).**

**Please also forward on any musical
performances of any level to share with the
BST community.**

THANKYOU

