



T Japanese TALKO

There is neither
East nor West

And Never the Twain

*Oh, East is East and West is West, and never the twain shall meet,
Till Earth and Sky stand presently at God's great Judgment Seat;
But there is neither East nor West, Border, nor Breed, nor Birth,
When two strong men stand face to face,
though they come from the ends of the earth!*

The Ballad of East and West - Rudyard Kipling

Why | the concept of

And Never the Twain

This famous poem by Kipling is known primarily for its first line, which is used to express disagreement and the inability of different cultures and different individuals to find common ground.

But upon further reading, the poem voices the exact opposite. It's about how everyone in

his own being, in his own culture and in his own (birth)right is equal. It's about bringing people together.

The title 'And Never the Twain' was chosen exactly for this reason:

To bring accomplished artists from different cultural, disciplinary and musical backgrounds together.

A close-up photograph of a musician's arm and hand as they play a taiko drum. The musician is wearing a white shirt with a gold and red patterned sleeve. The drum is dark and has a light-colored head. The background is dark and out of focus, showing other musicians in a similar patterned shirt.

What | the concert of

And Never the Twain

Here seven great artists stand face to face and they have come from the ends of the earth!

In full respect and joy they exchange their skills and share their passion, the Japanese music of taiko and shinobue (drums and flute).

The artists improvise and add to each other's pieces. They playfully provoke and push the boundaries of their music and technique, re-

sulting in an energetic blend of taiko, percussion and jazz-fusion.

The concert lasts for approximately 1h15 plus encore (without a break). But because of the playful character of the concert, where the musicians tease and challenge each other to new heights, the length of the concert may vary!



And Never the Twain

Who | the artists



Who | Beibei Wang
China

And Never the Twain

Her drum speed is beyond measure! She brings a battlefield live on stage.

Beibei Wang is a virtuoso percussionist and a rising star in the world of classic music. She is an international soloist with both Chinese and British music education background and got a master degree at Central Conservatory of Music (China) and the Royal Academy of Music (UK).

Her music is influenced by her sensibility to Eastern heritage and Western avant-garde. Beibei debuted with the BBC Symphony Orchestra and tours around the world performing with numerous great conductors, orchestras and artists.



Who | Véronique Piron
France

And Never the Twain

Her magical breath calms down the stage and brings a mystical and poetic peace.

Véronique Piron is the ambassador of the shakuhachi, the bamboo flute of Japan. She is a master-performer in the traditional style of the legendary Katsuya Yokoyama, whose sound is deep, powerful and rich in colors and always in research.

Véronique performs as a solo artist, together with Western and Japanese artists, from traditional to contemporary music.

From improvisation to creation, Véronique explores different playing techniques and styles of expression to enrich a new repertory with creative musicians, composers, by meeting other musical cultures, and accompany writers in public lectures.

She has played in France, Europe and beyond like at the International Shakuhachi Festival in Tokyo.

A woman with her hair tied back, wearing a patterned kimono-style top, is smiling and playing a taiko drum. The background is dark with some blurred lights.

Who | Grete Moortgat
Belgium

And Never the Twain

As the initiator who started this group, she's the european taiko ambassador.

Grete Moortgat's passion for taiko runs so deep, she considers herself the ambassador of taiko and wants to bring artists together in transboundary art projects to learn and inspire each other.

As a representative of Europe, she was a guest at the first Taiko World Gathering in Los Angeles where she gave a speech, performed and gave classes.

She founded the first Wadaiko-school in Belgium, Araumi Daiko Academy, and is the founding leader of the group Feniks Taiko that performs all over Europe and Japan.

Grete regularly performs as a solo artist with top performers such as Chieko Kojima, Takuya Taniguchi and Akihito Obama, and as a guest player with other top taiko groups.



Who | Shoji Kameda
USA

And Never the Twain

Even a multi talented taiko percussionist can surprise us. Listen to the sound of his voice.

Shoji Kameda was featured in the music of the hit NBC TV show "Heroes", performed with Stevie Wonder at the 2008 Democratic National Convention and received a Grammy nomination with jazz fusion band Hiroshima for his work on their album Legacy.

He is the founding member of 'On Ensemble' and

the group's primary creative force. In 2013 On Ensemble was invited to perform at the National Theater of Japan for their prestigious "Nihon no Taiko" series.

Shoji is sought after by groups throughout the taiko world for workshops, masterclasses and compositions.

A photograph of a young man, Milan Pauwels, in profile, wearing a black tank top and playing a taiko drum. In the background, a woman is also playing a taiko drum. The scene is lit with warm, reddish tones.

Who | Milan Pauwels
Belgium

And Never the Twain

**He supports the whole group and besides,
he makes the triangle sound so cool!**

Milan Pauwels was begging his parents to buy him a drum set as he was a little boy. At twelve years old he discovered taiko and was naturally drawn to it. Thanks to his background as a drummer he progressed quickly.

The last couple of years he has been a member of the Belgian group Feniks Taiko, founded by his teacher Grete Moortgat.

In 2014 Milan travelled with Feniks Taiko to Japan, to perform en play with other groups and taiko artists. In 2015, Feniks Taiko was asked to perform at the first European Taiko Concert Night in Düsseldorf, Germany, as one of the top three European taiko groups.

Still playing the drums, as well as taiko, Milan is setting out to be a creative percussionist in traditional and temporary music.



Who | Art Lee
Japan

And Never the Twain

Only he can let you hear the vibrant whispering and roaring of the sun.

Art Lee has become one of the most highly regarded taiko artists throughout the world of Japanese performing arts. He brings his virtuosity, expansive interpretations and creative repertoire choices to diverse global audiences.

In 2001, Art received international acclaim for becoming the first person in the world to be awarded an artist visa from the Japanese

government to teach Taiko and lead the life of a professional taiko artist in Japan.

Art Lee is the first and only non-Japanese person to be crowned Solo Grand Champion of the world's most Prestigious taiko competition in Tokyo. In 2003 he created his own professional taiko group, Wadaiko Tokara, and tours the world.



Who | Yukari Ichise
Japan

And Never the Twain

One big energy house. She can disappear behind the drum, while still playing!

Yukari Ichise is fast becoming recognized throughout Japan, North America and Europe for her dynamic and lively taiko performance.

She composed her first performance piece titled "Chiyo Honen Bayashi" which has now been adopted as the main performance piece for the town of Chiyo in Nagano Prefecture, Japan.

Yukari is currently deputy leader of Haruka International, which represents various taiko groups including Tokara Matsuri, Haruka Taiko, Suiko and Nadeshiko.

She's also a renowned member of Wadaiko Tokara, touring the world with her powerful and enthusiastic performance style.



And Never the Twain

The concert | impression



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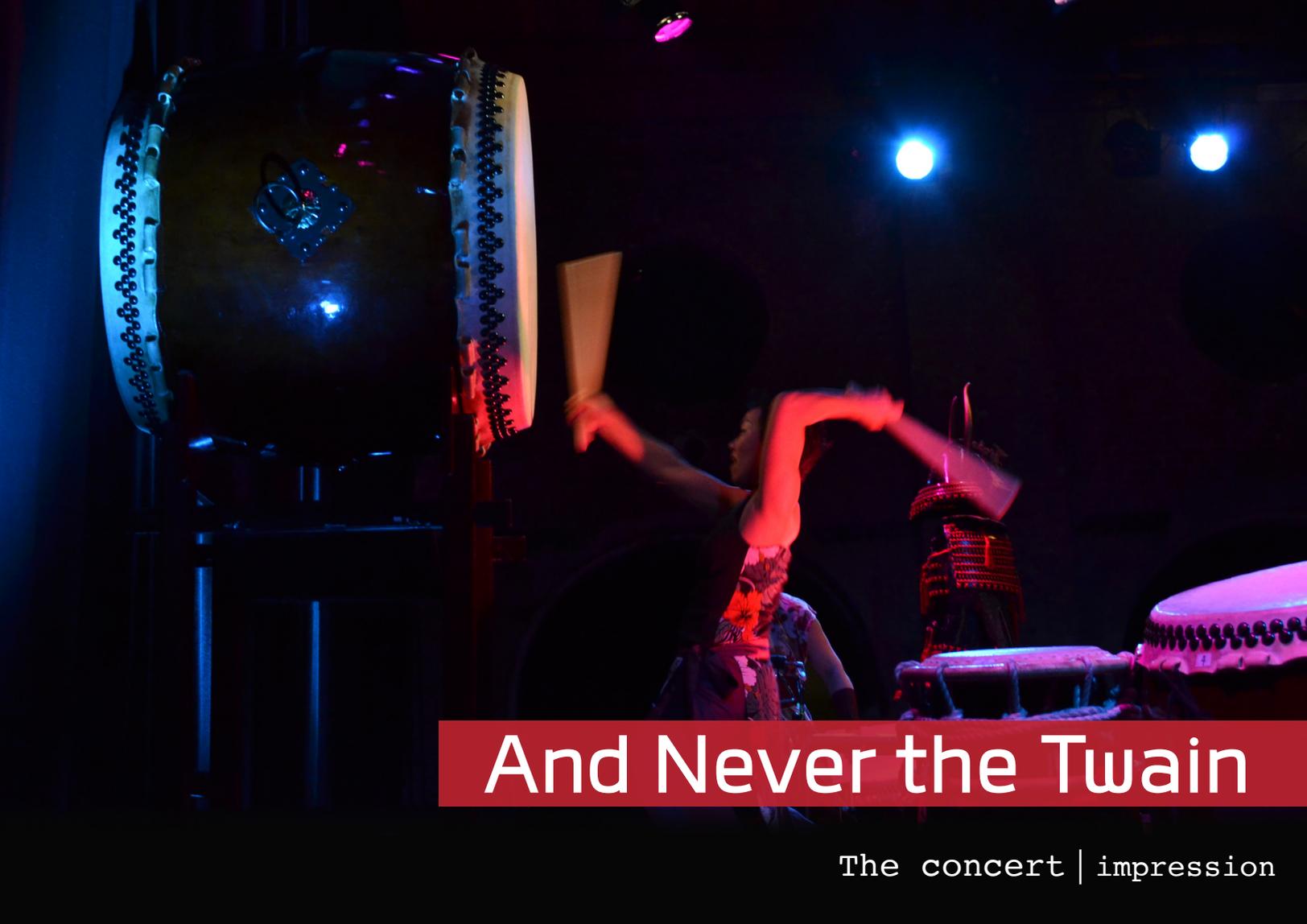
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The concert | impression



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And Never the Twain

and a lot of fun



Contact | information of

And Never the Twain

For more information
and reservations,
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Artistic director: Grete Moortgat

Coordinator: Annick Robberecht

'And Never the Twain' is a
production of **Araumi Daiko vzw**



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