

Vocabulary and Resources

TAIKO WORDS

Taiko - Japanese drum

Bachi - drumsticks

Matsuri - festival

TAIKO VERBAL NOTATION

Taiko is an oral tradition. This means that songs are taught through vocal sounds instead of through the use of written notation. Each kind of drumbeat has a different sound that represents it.

1 loud beat on the drum skin is **DON**

2 loud beats on the drum skin is **DORO**

1 soft beat on the drum skin is **tsu**

2 soft beats on the drum skin is **tsuku**

1 beat on the rim of the drum is **KA**

2 beats on the rim of the drum is **KARA**

1 rest (space) is **SU**

MATSURI (Festival) (in Verbal Notation)

1	+	2	+	3	+	4	+
DON		DON		DON	KARA	KA	RA
DON	DON		DON	DON	KARA	KA	RA
DON		DON		DON	KARA	KA	RA
DON	DON		DON	DON	KARA	KA	RA
SU	DON	SU	DON	SU	DON	DON	
SU	DON	SU	DON	SU	DON	DON	
DON	tsuku	DON	DON	DON		KA	
DON	tsuku	DON	DON	DON		HEY!	
DON	tsuku	DON	DON	DON		KA	

SO - LAY! (Sung over four beats)

Watch the [Taiko Verbal Notation and Matsuri Taiko Song YouTube](https://youtu.be/aM1Zu8q9Zco).

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