



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PORTLAND TAIKO IN CONCERT -- "MAKING WAVES"

Friday, October 23, 7:30 PM and Saturday, October 24, 7:30 PM

Tickets \$16, \$14 students and seniors (725-3307 or 790-2787)

Children's show: Saturday, October 24, 2:00 PM

Tickets \$10, \$6 children under 12

Asian American
Drum Performance

Portland Taiko, the Asian American drum performance ensemble, will present its home concert, "**Making Waves**", on **Friday, October 23** and **Saturday, October 24** in **Lincoln Performance Hall** at Portland State University. (A shorter children's matinee with stories and taiko will take place on the afternoon of October 24.)

3230 NE Columbia Blvd

Portland, OR

97211

The concert's title evokes the powerful sound waves created by the taiko, or Japanese drum, and draws on the depth of Asian American experience. Power, humor, and exuberance will weave through an energizing blend of traditional and contemporary taiko rhythms and movement.

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As the centerpiece of the company's home season, "**Making Waves**" highlights the group's newest compositions and reflects the vibrant diversity of cultures and creativity that comprise Portland Taiko. Audiences will be treated to the driving rhythms of Rachel Eborá's "*Typhoon Signal Number 3*", the interwoven polyrhythms of Ann Ishimaru's "*Pushing the River*", and the haunting melodies of violin and taiko inspired by the Japanese bamboo flute. This year's program will feature a striking multimedia piece, entitled "*Questions of Loyalty*", a thought-provoking exploration of the decisions Japanese Americans were forced to make during their World War II internment and segregation at the Tule Lake Segregation Camp. Portland Taiko will also be joined by **BodyVox**, the critically acclaimed dance company, for a collaborative piece of taiko and movement.

email:
info@portlandtaiko.org

Heralded as one of Portland's most electrifying performing arts groups, Portland Taiko is a sixteen-member Asian American drumming group that has delighted audiences at festivals, theaters, colleges and schools since 1994.

Portland Taiko's interpretation of the Japanese artform of taiko combines sheer physicality, exuberant movement, and innovative sounds. According to Nancy Wang, Co-Director for internationally recognized **EthNohTec** of San Francisco, "*Portland Taiko is exceptionally exciting to watch. Their choreography is fresh, their movements clean, their compositions excellent.*"

A few notable past performances include:

- **Opening Ceremonies, World Masters Games**, Civic Stadium.
- "**Rhythms of Spring**", Portland Taiko's family performance of taiko and stories.
- Portland Taiko's first home concert, "**Making Waves '97**", at the Scottish Rite Center.
- Opening for University of Portland appearance by world-renowned Okinawan taiko group **Zampa Ufujishi Daiko**.

For thousands of years, the booming voice of the taiko, or Japanese drum, has called the community together in ceremony and celebration. The taiko was used in religious ceremonies, folk festivals and theater. The distance from which the community taiko could be heard was said to define the boundaries of villages in ancient Japan. Portland Taiko echoes that tradition while taking Asian American music into unexplored territory with its innovative and provocative creations.

BodyVox is a six-member dance company whose Artistic Directors (Jamey Hampton and Ashley Roland) have toured internationally and choreographed videos for Sting, U2, Pat Metheny, Soundgarden, Simply Red and John Fogerty. Founding members and choreographers for Pilobolus and MOMIX dance companies, their many accolades include Emmy awards for the choreography and performance of *Episodes*.

Join us for an evening of drama, celebration and exhilarating music as we mark the beginning of Portland Taiko's fifth eventful year of "making waves" in Portland. Last year's concert sold out a week in advance, so be sure to purchase tickets early at the P.S.U. Box Office (725-3307) or any Ticketmaster outlet (790-2787).