



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Announcing Portland Taiko's 2002 Fall Performance *TaikoKinesis!*

Also featuring a children's matinee performance of *Taiko Tales*

Asian American
Drum Performance

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(Portland, OR) – Portland Taiko's fall concert, *TaikoKinesis!*, will take place September 6 & 7, 2002 at 8:00 p.m. at the Newmark Theatre (PCPA, 1111 SW Broadway). Tickets (\$16.50 - \$24.00) are available at all FASTIXX outlets or by calling 503-224-8499. Portland Taiko will also present a children's matinee performance of *Taiko Tales* on Saturday, September 7 at 2:00 p.m. at the Newmark. Tickets for the *Taiko Tales* matinee (\$8.50 - \$13.00) are also available through FASTIXX.

*Twirling drummers, leaping dancers, flying bachi ... all powered by the driving beat of the taiko – witness Portland Taiko's 2002 fall concert, **TaikoKinesis!** This concert will feature PT's full company of performers, the group's newest compositions, and our full collection of taiko, including the Shoji Odaiko and the Okedo-daiko (the largest drum in the Northwest at 4.5 feet across and 6 feet long!).*

The title *TaikoKinesis!* refers to the movement of the performers, but also to Portland Taiko's aspiration to move its audience through rhythm, melody, and drama. The concert will feature the premiere of *six* new works, including: *3X* by renowned choreographer and dancer Minh Tran; *Rock The Boat*, a dynamic community-based taiko and theater piece funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and aimed at challenging racism targeting Asian Americans; and two new works commissioned by Portland Taiko's supporters, one honoring **Oregon's Japanese Americans** and another exploring the palette of sounds offered by the **Shoji Odaiko** and **large Okedo-daiko**. Portland Taiko will also perform several of its favorite existing compositions, including *Taikokinesis* (the inspiration for the concert title), *Tatsumaki* ("Whirlwind"), *Salmon Ghost Song*, *From The Village*, and *Daichi o Kakeru Uma* ("Horses Running on the Great Earth").

TaikoKinesis! showcases Portland Taiko's unique mix of thunder, melody, humor and drama. The show will meld taiko performance with bamboo flute, violin, folk song, dance, and spoken word, with an emphasis on whirling, athletic movement and dynamic drumming. The concert is the culmination of the group's annual season and presents the leading edge of Portland Taiko's creative work. Featuring

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the full home company of 12 performers playing the group's latest works on its full contingent of taiko instruments, Portland Taiko's ***TaikoKinesis!*** is not to be missed! The public should not wait to buy tickets – Portland Taiko's 2000 and 2001 fall concerts at the Newmark Theatre both sold out prior to the doors opening.

The Children's Matinee: *Taiko Tales*

This special 55-minute matinee performance will take children on a visual and auditory journey through taiko performance and storytelling. Drawing from its experience of performing over 300 shows for schoolchildren, Portland Taiko's ***Taiko Tales*** matinee will feature audience participation, laughter, culture and music. The show is perfect for kids (and their parents) who like shorter performances and enjoy laughing and participating. Please note that the matinee is not a shortened version of the evening concert. ***Taiko Tales*** is a distinct performance designed especially for children.

About Portland Taiko

Established in 1994, **Portland Taiko** is an award-winning Asian American drum performance ensemble. Through artistic excellence and innovation in taiko, Portland Taiko inspires audiences, affirms Asian American pride, builds community, and educates about heritage and culture. The only professional taiko company in the Northwestern United States, the ensemble is widely recognized as a leading group in the North American taiko community. For thousands of years, the booming voice of the taiko, or Japanese drum, has called the community together in ceremony and celebration. Portland Taiko echoes that tradition while taking Asian American music into unexplored territory with its innovative and provocative creations. "*Portland Taiko is emerging as an innovator in taiko music.*" – **Bob Edwards, National Public Radio.**

About the Guest Artist

Minh Tran has been working throughout the West Coast as a choreographer, performer, and educator for over a decade. Trained as a Vietnamese opera performer at the National School of Fine and Performing Arts in Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City), Vietnam, Minh later received his MFA in Dance from the University of Washington. He is a recipient of numerous regional grants, fellowships, and commissions in support of his work and is currently a recipient of New York's Dance Theater Workshop Suitcase Fund supported by the Rockefeller Foundation to conduct research of dances in mainland Southeast Asia. Last year Minh traveled to Bali, Indonesia as part of his touring with the UCLA Center for Intercultural Performance Program.

Group and special patron tickets to ***TaikoKinesis*** are available directly through Portland Taiko. Call 503-288-2456 for information about those tickets. All other regular tickets are available through FASTIXX. This concert is made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the McKenzie River Gathering Foundation, the Equity Foundation, the Oregon Arts Commission, and the Rose E. Tucker Charitable Trust.

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