

Portland Taiko

Big Bang

Thundering taiko drums, dueling bamboo flute and violin, and a powerful groove that puts most rock-and-roll bands to shame – this is Portland Taiko's Big Bang.

Big Bang's title refers to the sound of the taiko (Japanese drum), and to the power of creativity fused with contemporary Asian American expression. The CD features that unmistakable sound of the big drum, but also polyrhythm, melody and space.

Big Bang, the group's second recording, fuses old and new – tradition and innovation. The works on the album are inspired by traditional Japanese music, but also draw on contemporary American music forms like jazz, R&B, hip-hop, and rock. The combination is an infectious blend of folk sounds and modern musical sensibilities. The energy on the album flows from the huge, driving rhythms of *Ha!* to the sweet flute melodies of *Soliloquy* and back again to the raucous, funky finale, *Resonance*. The recording's ten tracks total fifty-nine minutes of gripping music.

The recording process of Big Bang paid special attention to capturing the incredible natural sound of Portland Taiko's big drums (the largest drum measures six feet long and over four-and-a-half feet wide). These drums don't fit into most recording studios, and their long sound wave lengths cannot "open up" in small rooms. So this recording took place at the large acoustic space of Parkrose Community Theater. The result, after excellent engineering and mastering, is a beautiful, warm taiko sound.

Big Bang follows on the success of Portland Taiko's first recording, *Making Waves*, which spent several weeks at number one on The Oregonian's local bands sales ranking and is currently in its 3rd pressing. Music critic James McQuillen wrote, "some of the tracks hew close to the traditional Japanese sound; others incorporate melodic and rhythmic material that the festival drummers of old Japan could never have imagined. The high energy is infectious throughout: If you can listen to the whole disc sitting down, check your pulse".



Track Listing:

1. **Oyakodon-don!**
2. **To Fly**
3. **All Is Well**
4. **Akatombo**
5. **Ha!**
6. **From the village**
7. **Salmon Ghost Song**
8. **Soliloquy**
9. **A Place Called Home**
10. **Resonance**

Distributed By:

Label Contact
Portland Taiko
Zachary Semke
3230 NE Columbia Blvd.
Portland, OR 97211
Phone: 503-288-2456
Fax: 503-288-2460
zack@portlandtaiko.org

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