



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Announcing Portland Taiko's 10th Anniversary Season: *On the Shoulders of Giants*

(Portland, OR) –

Portland Taiko (PT) announces its 10th anniversary home season: *On the Shoulders of Giants*. The season celebrates the giants upon whose shoulders Portland Taiko stands – giants among the nation's Asian American artists who have inspired PT's work, as well as giants from our local community who have supported the group's development and growth over the past decade. Thanks to this support, PT has become a national arts organization, with tours across the country, awards from the **National Endowment for the Arts** and the **American Composers Forum**, and a year-round full-time professional artistic core. During its East Coast tour this January, PT made its **Kennedy Center debut** in Washington DC before a standing-room-only crowd at the Millennium Stage. PT invites the Portland region to join us in honoring our giants with a season of collaborations and new works composed by North America's foremost taiko artists.

The *On the Shoulders of Giants* season will include:

1. **Taicophony**, a joint spring concert with **Uzume Taiko Ensemble** of Vancouver, B.C., at Portland Community College Sylvania Performing Arts Center, **April 16-17, 2004**. This promises to be a raucous evening of creative taiko, melody, humor, and innovation as PT joins forces with the riveting Uzume Taiko Ensemble. Named for the goddess of laughter, *Ame no Uzume no Mikoto*, this innovative small ensemble was Canada's first professional taiko group. Of Uzume Taiko Ensemble, Michael Scott (The Vancouver Sun) wrote "*This is music you feel in the involuntary flutter of your eyelids, in the sympathetic rumble of your diaphragm. This is music you feel, as one enthusiastic opening night patron put it, 'right down to your colon.'*"
2. **Composer Spotlights**, (May – August, 2004) at the Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center, give the community the chance to meet the country's foremost Asian American performers and taiko artists in intimate conversations about their creative processes and the works they are composing for Portland Taiko's fall concert. May 26, 2004: **Kenny Endo** of Honolulu's Kenny Endo Taiko Ensemble; June 16, 2004: **Jeanne Mercer & Russel Baba** of Shasta Taiko; July 14, 2004: **Tiffany Tamaribuchi** of Sacramento Taiko Dan; and August 11, 2004: **PJ & Roy Hirabayashi** of San Jose Taiko.

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3. **On the Shoulders of Giants concert**, the culmination of the 10th Anniversary Season. At the Newmark Theater, Portland Center for the Performing Arts, **September 24-26, 2004**. This concert represents the culmination of over 10 years of creative development and a year of work with the foremost American taiko artists in the country. The concert will feature world premiers of distinctive and ground-breaking new works by our “giants” as well as PT favorites from the past ten years. A new collaboration with Minh Tran will be featured as well as the restaging of Oregon’s Continental Harmony composition (supported by NEA and the American Composers Forum) *Wind, Water, Wood* by Kenny Endo.

On the Shoulders of Giants **Season-at-a-Glance:**

Taicophony - joint concert with Uzume Taiko Ensemble (PCC Sylvania PAC):

Fri, April 16, 7:30 p.m.

Sat, April 17, 7:30 p.m.

(\$19/17 + charges: TicketsWest outlets and 503-224-8499 or 1-800-325-7328)

Composer Spotlights – lecture/demonstrations (Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center):

Wed, May 26, 6:30 p.m. – Kenny Endo of Kenny Endo Taiko Ensemble

Wed, June 16, 6:30 p.m. – Jeanne Mercer & Russel Baba of Shasta Taiko

Wed, July 14, 6:30 p.m. – Tiffany Tamaribuchi of Sacramento Taiko Dan

Wed, August 11, 6:30 p.m. – PJ & Roy Hirabayashi of San Jose Taiko

(\$7: Tickets available directly through Portland Taiko, 503-288-2456)

On the Shoulders of Giants - 10th anniversary concert (Newmark Theater, PCPA):

Fri, September 24, 8:00 p.m.

Sat, September 25, 2:00 p.m. (Special Children’s Matinee – different program)

Sat, September 25, 8:00 p.m.

Sun, September 26, 2:00 p.m. (Regular Matinee – same as evening program)

(\$25/17.50/13/8.50 + charges: TicketsWest)

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 our 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. **Discography:** Making Waves (2000), Big Bang (2003). *“‘Big Bang’ represents both an engineering and musical triumph. This album delivers a wholly engaging mix of bone-rattling drumming interspersed by Japanese singing and chanting and occasional coloristic touches on two violins and flute.”* – **Norm Weinstein, The Beat.**

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