



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Taicophony hits Portland

(Portland, OR)

Asian American
Drum Performance

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- Join us for a raucous evening of creative taiko, melody, humor, and innovation when Portland Taiko joins forces with the riveting Uzume Taiko Ensemble from Vancouver, B.C. For this spring's eye-popping show, Portland Taiko (PT) and Uzume Taiko Ensemble will create a virtual Taicophony of sound, rhythm, and movement at Portland Community College-Sylvania's Performing Arts Center on Friday, April 16 and Saturday, April 17 at 7:30pm.

Uzume Taiko Ensemble has long been a friend and inspiration to PT. Named for the goddess of slaughter, Ama no Uzume no Mikoto, this innovative small ensemble is Canada's first professional taiko group. They have toured extensively throughout Canada, the U.S., and Europe, and their creative adventures have included taiko in collaboration with instruments as wide-ranging as saxophone, cello, Brazilian berimbau, throat singing, and bagpipe. The ensemble consists of three core taiko drummers / percussionists whose work has been described by Michael Scott (Vancouver Sun) as "... 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.'"

Both evenings will feature a blend of carefully selected pieces from each group, as well as the world premier of collaborative works. Taicophony is part of Portland Taiko's 10th anniversary home season: On the Shoulders of Giants, which celebrates the giants upon whose shoulders PT stands - and whose work has helped PT develop and grow into one of the country's leading Asian American arts organizations.

Tickets are \$19/17 + charges and are available at TicketsWest outlets:

503-224-8499 or 1-800-992-TIXX

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, 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, PTJ made its Kennedy Center debut in Washington DC before a standing-room-only crowd at the Millennium Stage.

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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