



NEWS RELEASE

September 14, 2006
For immediate release
Photos available

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What: Portland Taiko's 2006 Fall Concert, *Ohayo Gozaimasu – A New Day* and *Sunnyside Up!* Children's Matinee

Who: Portland Taiko, Asian American Drum Performance Group

When: *Ohayo Gozaimasu – A New Day* Fall Concert, September 22 & 23, 8pm; September 24, 2pm; *Sunnyside Up!* Children's Matinee, September 23, 2pm

Where: Newmark Theatre, Portland Center for the Performing Arts, 1111 SW Broadway, Portland

Tickets: Single tickets \$17-24
Children's matinee \$7-12

Additional service charges may be applied.

Available at PCPA Box Office, www.ticketmaster.com or 503-790-ARTS
For discounted group and special Patron Tickets contact Portland Taiko
503-288-2456 or www.portlandtaiko.org

Sponsors: *Oyaho Gozaimasu – A New Day* is funded in part by The Collins Foundation. The Oregon Arts Commission, Regional Arts & Culture Council, and Mark Spencer Hotel have generously supported Portland Taiko's season.

PORTLAND TAIKO ANNOUNCES 2006 FALL CONCERT: *OHAYO GOZAIMASU – A NEW DAY*

Portland Taiko welcomes a new day with their fall concert this year, taking a breath of fresh air on their journey in a new and exciting direction. *Ohayo Gozaimasu – A New Day* shares Artistic Co-Directors Teresa Enrico and Michelle Fujii's vision for the future of PT, by shedding new light on PT's past, revealing new artistic possibilities of taiko, and broadening artistic and cultural horizons.

This year's fall concert is the first opportunity for audiences to experience a full-length concert led by the talented and dynamic new leadership duo. Bringing over nine years of performance, composition and outreach experience with Portland Taiko, Teresa now shares her experiences and knowledge in the position of Artistic Co-Director. Michelle, most recently of the LA-based On Ensemble, is widely known for her innovative fusion of dance and taiko inspired by extensive study of folk traditions in Japan. She is recognized as a top emerging artist in the North American taiko scene. Combining Teresa and Michelle's complementary strengths as artistic leaders results in a new spirit for Portland Taiko.

Ohayo Gozaimasu debuts two new works by the Artistic Co-Directors. Inspired by a trip to South Africa for the World Conference Against Racism, Teresa's new piece captures her

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interpretation of the great power within taiko. The title, *Together . . . No Turning Back*, expresses her hopeful attitude towards the future, and how the community can be healed and transformed through the power of art. Michelle's piece, *Slipping Through My Fingers*, explores a contemporary use of the uchiwa (fan drums), and features a movement-based narrative performed by the full group.

In addition to introducing these new works, *Ohayo Gozaimasu – A New Day* shares several favorites from past repertoire, reworked specially for this production. Michelle states, "Not only does this cultivate the strength of PT's past artistic creativity, but it also shows the growth and fresh innovation that the group has experienced and will continue to embark on in the years to come."

Saturday, September 23 at 2pm PT will perform *Sunnyside Up!*, a children's matinee version of the full concert that is fun for the whole family, complete with compelling rhythms, storytelling, and audience participation.

Fall concert-goers also have the pleasure of witnessing the debut of the newest addition to PT's family of drums. Thanks to the generous donors of the CREATE Fund, PT was able to purchase a brand new 30 inch diameter hira daiko, a drum unlike others in PT's complement of drums in that it is deep in size. According to Teresa, "The group is eager and excited to share their newest drum and latest taiko creations."

Established in 1994, Portland Taiko is an award-winning Asian American drum performance group. 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 first 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.

Tickets for *Ohayo Gozaimasu – A New Day* are \$17 – 24. *Sunnyside Up!* Tickets are \$7 - \$12. All tickets are available at the PCPA Box Office, Ticketmaster, or 503-790-ARTS. Additional service charges may be applied. For discounted group and special Patron Tickets contact Portland Taiko 503-288-2456 or www.portlandtaiko.org

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