



NEWS RELEASE

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For immediate release

Photos available

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What: Composer Spotlight

Who: Portland Taiko, Asian American Drum Performance, with Michelle Fujii and Teresa Enrico, composers

When: Wednesday, August 23rd, 2006, 6:30pm

Where: PSU Lincoln Hall, Room 75, 1620 SW Park Avenue, Portland

Tickets: \$7. Advance tickets available now through Brown Paper Tickets at 1-800-838-3006 or online at www.portlandtaiko.org. Also available at the door.

For further information: Call (503) 288-2456 for further or visit www.portlandtaiko.org

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COMPOSER SPOTLIGHT INTRODUCES NEW WORK BY MICHELLE FUJII AND TERESA ENRICO

Portland Taiko (PT) presents its Artistic Co-Directors, Michelle Fujii and Teresa Enrico, giving a sneak preview of two fresh compositions for PT's upcoming fall concert, *Ohayo Gozaimasu—A New Day*. The two will be featured in a Composer Spotlight on Wednesday, August 23, at PSU in Lincoln Hall, Room 75, 1620 SW Park Avenue.

Fujii and Enrico have now led the group for a full year, and bring new visions and inspirations for Portland Taiko. This Composer Spotlight will offer a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the creative process for upcoming concert and seasons to come.

Hailing from Los Angeles, Michelle has been a performing member of On Ensemble, San Jose Taiko, TAIKOPROJECT, and others. She has also joined Portland Taiko's Ensemble on national tours for several years, making her a welcome but familiar addition to the Portland Taiko family. In 2001, Michelle was awarded the prestigious Bunka-cho fellowship to study with Warabi-za, Japan's premiere folk dance troupe, under master dance/choreographer Shohei Kikuchi. Offering her extensive taiko and dance experience, Michelle enhances the colors of Portland Taiko's repertoire through revisiting classic pieces and creating new compositions, including the piece she will be introducing at this year's Composer Spotlight.

Asian American
Drum Performance

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Teresa Enrico, a long time performer and artistic staff member of Portland Taiko, is also creating a new composition. Performing with the Ensemble since 1996, Teresa has been with Portland Taiko since its early years and has an intimate knowledge of its workings and influences. Bringing her own expertise in both taiko and the *shinobue*, the Japanese flute, Teresa is also deeply committed to the Portland community, the value of the arts in community building, and social activism. She has played an important role in Portland Taiko's outreach and community-based creative projects. Teresa's dedication to social activism has had a great influence on her work, and is the inspiration for her new composition, tentatively titled "Liberation."

Upon her return from an international conference, Teresa was profoundly influenced by the discussions on racism and affecting change throughout the world on a personal and global level. Focusing on her belief in art's ability to heal, transform, and build community, "Liberation" explores how all these things connect.

Michelle's composition focuses on the unique and dynamic instrument, the *uchiwa* (fan drum) in a contemporary context. This composition creates a narrative using movement and sound, in a fusion inspired by both modern and Japanese folk dance.

Following excerpts from each piece, the composers will discuss their inspirations and describe the creative processes that occur long before compositions ever reach the stage. Audience members will have the opportunity to comment and ask questions. Light refreshments will be served following the event.

Tickets are \$7, or free to Portland Taiko season subscribers. Advance tickets are available now through Brown Paper Tickets at 1-800-838-3006 or online at www.portlandtaiko.org. Tickets are also available at the door the evening of the event.

For further information and to purchase season tickets, call Portland Taiko directly at (503) 288-2456 or visit www.portlandtaiko.org.

The Composer Spotlight is partly supported by grants from the Autzen Foundation and The Collins Foundation. Portland Taiko's season supporters include the Oregon Arts Commission, Regional Arts & Culture Council, and The Mark Spencer Hotel.

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