



## NEWS RELEASE

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*Photos available*

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**What:** *Rhythms of Change*, Portland Taiko's Spring concert

**Who:** Portland Taiko, Asian American Drum Performance, with guest artists Byron Au Yong and Kristofer Bergstrom.

**When:** Friday, April 6, 8pm; Saturday, April 7, 2pm & 8pm

**Where:** Lincoln Performance Hall, 1620 SW Park, Portland

**Tickets:** \$18.50 - \$21.50, PSU Box Office, (503) 725-3307 or online at [www.portlandtaiko.org](http://www.portlandtaiko.org). Call (503) 288-2456 for further information or visit [www.portlandtaiko.org](http://www.portlandtaiko.org)

**Sponsors:** The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, The Kinsman Foundation, Oregon Arts Commission, and Oregon Cultural Trust.

## ***RHYTHMS OF CHANGE OPENS PORTLAND TAIKO'S 13<sup>TH</sup> HOME SEASON***

Portland Taiko launches its 13th home season with *Rhythms of Change* – an exploration of the aural landscapes created by the textures of the drum, the interplay of rhythms, the purity of voice and the varied sounds of the taiko. The Asian American Drum performance group's annual spring concert premieres Friday, April 6 at 8pm and continues Saturday, April 7 at 2pm and 8pm in Lincoln Performance Hall on the PSU campus.

The concert features compositions and performances by Seattle-based composer Byron Au Yong and multi-talented performer Kristofer Bergstrom, from Los Angeles. The group will present the world premiere of *Take (Bamboo)* by long time Portland Taiko member Kristy Oshiro. Compositions by Portland Taiko Artistic Co-Directors Teresa Enrico and Michelle Fujii are also on the program.

Au Yong brings long-time collaborator Karen Akada Sakata to join with Michelle Fujii and Toru Watanabe in the premiere of *Ji Mo: The Stillness of Solitude*. Au Yong, who describes *Ji Mo* as a musical ceremony about being alone, says of this work, "My compositions, scored for Asian, European, and hand-made instruments,

Asian American  
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often require musicians to physically move around a performance space. [I'm] interested in the interplay between nature, architecture, sound, noise, chaos, and repetition, [and] I find musical gestures in everyday actions. These gestures form the basis of ceremonial works created to honor the ritual of people who gather to listen.”

Au Yong has composed over 50 works that have been performed in Canada, China, Germany, Japan, South Korea, and the United States. Examples of his compositions include *Surrender: A T'ai Qi Cantata* and *YIJU: Songs of Dislocation*.

Kristofer Bergstrom will perform the world premier of his solo work, *Err*. Inspired by the technical workings of the compact disc, *Err* borrows from the CD's basic data structure and encoding methodology to bury hidden messages in rhythms. The piece's score reads like a child's puzzle book, guiding the listener through unlocking the messages. *Err* uses a taiko technique called "ryoutan-uchi", in which the drums are struck with both the front and back of the drumsticks. Bergstrom will join Portland Taiko in several of the evening's performances.

After his introduction to taiko at Stanford Taiko, Bergstrom moved to Japan to study Japanese dance, nagauta shamisen, and taiko as well as turntable scratching and traditional methods of Japanese drum tightening. He is an apprentice in shamisen to Kineya Katsuyukie, one of the world's most respected shamisen players. He performs regularly with On Ensemble and teaches in Los Angeles.

The concert includes other recent compositions, such as *Together. . . No Turning Back* by Teresa Enrico and Masato Baba's *Changing Landscapes*, both of which premiered in 2006. Michelle Fujii's compositions *Home*, *Itsuka (Someday)*, are included, as is *Fearless Hearts Adorned with Pure Light* by Kevin Higa and Portland Taiko favorites *TaikoKinesis* and *Midare Matsuri*.

Advance tickets for *Rhythms of Change* are available at the PSU Box Office, (503) 725-3307, or online at [www.portlandtaiko.org](http://www.portlandtaiko.org).

*Rhythms of Change* is the first concert of Portland Taiko's 2007 Season, *The Way Home: Rhythms of Change*, an exploration of home: what it means to have left, our search for and expression of home, what it has been, where it is now, and how it has changed. Millions of immigrants left their homes to face hardship, challenges, and the rewards of building new lives in a new land, and PT's 13<sup>th</sup> annual season tells stories of that immigrant experience.

The 2007 season also includes the annual fall concert, *The Way Home* September 21-23, a children's matinee, *Bamboozled!*, September 22, plus two Behind-the-Scenes events this summer. Season tickets are still on sale for \$65. Patron Season tickets, which include special recognition, a backstage tour of the Newmark Theatre, and a special reception at the fall concert are \$140. Call (503) 288-2546 for further information or visit [www.portlandtaiko.org](http://www.portlandtaiko.org).

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