



## NEWS RELEASE

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*For immediate release*

*Photos available*

Contact: Michael Griggs

(503) 288-2456

info@portlandtaiko.org

www.portlandtaiko.org

**What:** Portland Taiko's 2007 Season, *The Way Home: Rhythms of Change*

**Who:** Portland Taiko, Asian American Drum Performance

**When:** March 7 – September 23, 2007:

*Open Rehearsal with Portland Taiko*, March 7, 6:30pm

*Rhythms of Change*, April 6 & 7, 8pm; April 7, 2pm

*Spinning the Narrative Thread*, June 13, 6:30pm

*Weaving the Whole: Transitions, Sets, and Taiko*, August 29, 6:30pm

*The Way Home*, Fall Concert, September 21 & 22, 8pm; September 23, 2pm

*Bamboozled! Children's Matinee*, September 22, 2pm

**Where:** *Open Rehearsal with Portland Taiko*, Lincoln Hall Room 75, PSU, 1620 SW Park, Portland

*Rhythms of Change*, Lincoln Performance Hall, 1620 SW Park, Portland

*Spinning the Narrative Thread*, Lincoln Hall Room 75, PSU

*Weaving the Whole: Transitions, Sets, and Taiko*, Lincoln Hall Room 75, PSU

*The Way Home*, Fall Concert, Newmark Theatre, Portland Center for the Performing Arts, 1111 SW Broadway, Portland

*Bamboozled! Children's Matinee*, September 23, 2pm, Newmark Theatre, PCPA

**Tickets:** Season tickets on sale now, \$65; Patron Season tickets \$140 at (503) 288-2456 or www.portlandtaiko.org. Advance tickets for *Open Rehearsal* available now through Brown Paper Tickets at (800) 838-3006 or online at www.portlandtaiko.org. Advance tickets for *Rhythms of Change* available at PSU Box Office, (503) 725-3307 or online at www.ticketmaster.com. Call (503) 288-2456 for further information or visit www.portlandtaiko.org

**Season Sponsors:** The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, The Kinsman Foundation, Oregon Arts Commission, and Oregon Cultural Trust. Portland Taiko receives general operating support from The Aratani Foundation, M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, Oregon Arts Commission, Regional Arts and Culture Council, and Work for Art.

### **PORTLAND TAIKO ANNOUNCES 2007 SEASON: *THE WAY HOME: RHYTHMS OF CHANGE***

Portland Taiko embarks on its 2007 Season, *The Way Home: Rhythms of Change*, and invites the public to join in a journey of exploration and discovery. Like millions of immigrants who left their homes to face hardship, challenges, and the rewards of building new lives in a new land, PT's 13<sup>th</sup> annual season tells stories of the immigrant experience. New compositions and groundbreaking collaborations create a visual spectacle of driving, dynamic rhythms combined with dance and integrated movement.

Asian American  
Drum Performance

3230 NE Columbia Blvd

Portland, OR

97211

ph: (503) 288-2456

fax: (503) 288-2460

email:  
info@portlandtaiko.org

The season features two full concerts, *Rhythms of Change* April 6 and 7, *The Way Home* September 21-23, a children's matinee, *Bamboozled!*, September 22, plus three Behind-the-Scenes events.

PT's Artistic Co-Directors Teresa Enrico and Michelle Fujii have planned a season that brings exciting guest artists Byron Au Yong and Kristofer Bergstrom in the spring and culminates in a collaboration with Au Yong, visual artist Valerie Otani, and Oregon Poet Laureate Lawson Inada in the fall.

Bergstrom and Au Yong will lend their talents to *Rhythms of Change*, 8pm on Friday, April 6 and 2pm & 8pm Saturday, April 7 at Lincoln Performance Hall. Au Yong, a Seattle-based composer, will perform his piece *Flying Bamboo*, and Bergstrom will join the Portland Taiko ensemble in several pieces. The program features the changing textures and landscapes of sound.

Millions have come to these shores seeking to build new lives, overcoming prejudice and hardships, putting down new roots, and finally, finding *The Way Home*. In its fall concert 8pm September 21 & 22 and 2pm September 23, Portland Taiko weaves spoken word, movement, sets, costumes and lighting with the dynamic rhythms of the big drums to bring to life the search for home and all that comes with it. The new musical theater work features guest artist Lawson Inada, and the work of collaborating artists Inada, Byron Au Yong (composer) and Valerie Otani (scenic designer). Members of Portland's Asian and Asian American communities will be participating in a community creative process with Portland Taiko and the guest artists to help create new compositions, and the narrative framework for the concert. *Bamboozled!*, a shorter, more interactive version of the program suitable for the entire family, is 2pm Saturday, September 22. All fall performances are at the Newmark Theatre, Portland Center for the Performing Arts.

PT's popular Behind-the-Scenes events return to give audiences a chance to learn more about taiko and its cultural background, meet guest artists and PT performers in an informal atmosphere, and get sneak previews of upcoming concerts. The *Open Rehearsal with Portland Taiko*, the first of the three events scheduled, is at 6:30pm on Wednesday, March 7, and will give audience members a chance to witness PT's creative process as they rehearse new works for the upcoming spring show. In *Spinning the Narrative Thread*, Wednesday, June 13 at 6:30pm, Oregon's Poet Laureate Lawson Inada will share his work in progress on the spoken word component of the narrative for the fall concert, *The Way Home*. On August 29 at 6:30pm, composer Byron Au Yong and visual artist Valerie Otani will be guests for *Weaving the Whole*, sharing how they developed the visions for their collaboration with PT to create the music and staging of transitions, and the scenic design, respectively. They will be joined by PT for a sneak preview of *The Way Home*, complete with excerpts from the concert program. All Behind-the-Scenes events will be held in Lincoln Hall Room 75 at Portland State University, and feature light refreshments following the program.

Season tickets are on sale now at \$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. Advance tickets for *Open Rehearsal* are available now through Brown Paper Tickets at (800) 838-3006 or online at [www.portlandtaiko.org](http://www.portlandtaiko.org). Advance tickets for *Rhythms of Change* are available at the PSU Box Office, (503) 725-3307 or online at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com). Call (503) 288-2546 for further information or visit [www.portlandtaiko.org](http://www.portlandtaiko.org).

*The Way Home: Rhythms of Change* is supported by grants from The Paul G. Allen Family Foundation, The Kinsman Foundation, Oregon Arts Commission, and Oregon Cultural Trust. Portland Taiko receives general operating support from The Aratani Foundation, M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, Oregon Arts Commission, Regional Arts and Culture Council, and Work for Art.

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