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樂

"JOY" (le), also means "music."

888

The ancient forms of this symbol pictured drums and a bell on a stand.



Chibi Taiko

Eugene Taiko

Waka Daiko

Katari Taiko

Monmouth Taiko

Northwest Taiko

Portland Taiko

Sawagi Taiko

Seattle Kokon Taiko

Seattle Matsuri Taiko

Spokane Taiko

Tokidoki Taiko

Tsunami Taiko

Uzume Taiko

Yushindaiko

Performance Sessions:
Saturday, October 3rd
Session I, 1:00-2:20pm
Session II, 4:30-6:00pm
Sunday, October 4th
Session III, 1:00-2:20pm

October 3 & 4, 1998
Bellevue Community College
Bellevue, WA, USA

1998 Regional Taiko Gathering

Performance Session I

CHIBI TAIKO - Vancouver, BC

Chibi Taiko

This is Chibi's original song composed by Shinobu Homma. This very simple song illustrates the most fundamentals of Taiko ensemble, and conveys how fun and dynamic Taiko playing can be for Taiko beginners.

Chibi's Yodan

This is based on one of the most popular songs called *Yodan-uchi* from Oedo-Sukeroku Taiko in Tokyo. Chibi has been working on this adaptation since last year.

Tsunami Taiko - Seattle, Washington

Ame

Composition by Garrett Nakawatase
Ame translated into English means rain. Since the group is based in Seattle, the renowned rain capital of the United States, Garrett found inspiration from the rhythm and feeling of the rain. This song illustrates the harder driving rains of the Winters in Seattle.

Saiki San No Tameni

Composition by Tyrone Nakawatase
Tyrone and his brother Garrett began experimenting with different phrases they heard on a trip to Hawaii visiting Hawaii Matsuri Taiko. Since the style of the groups in Seattle and HMT were very different, he used this difference as inspiration for this piece. Saiki focuses on solos and echoing effect between drums reflected in the style of Hawaii Matsuri Taiko. The title translates to "In honor of Saiki", one of the main performers in the Hawaii group.

Tokidoki Taiko - Vancouver, BC

Ryujin Daiko (Dragon God Taiko)

This is our arrangement of a song to call the dragon that brings rain for the rice paddies. Our member Mark Canning learned this piece from Kyoto Taikokai.

Wachi Daiko

Wachi is the ancient name for a village near Kyoto. Tokidoki plays a contemporary arrangement of this traditional song kept by the Wachi Honzonkai (Wachi Preservation Society).

Seattle Kokon Taiko - Seattle, Washington

Mikoshi Bayashi

Music: Traditional, as taught by Taiko Master Kenny Endo
Adaptation by Stan Shikuma, Seattle Kokon Taiko, 1995
Mikoshi Bayashi is a piece in the style of Edo Bayashi, or old Tokyo festival music. During festivals, these songs would be played from house to house, neighborhood to neighborhood, sometimes going on for days at a time. In the old days, the hayashi (music ensemble) would often ride on yatai (wooden carts), accompanying the mikoshi (portable temples). The traditional hayashi consists of five players on different instruments, each with a specific role. Kenny Endo sometimes refers to Edo Bayashi as "the jazz of Japan" because of the music's up-beat tempo and syncopation, intricate patterns requiring great technical skill, and extensive use of improvisation.

Alamogordo

Composition/Arrangement by Stan Shikuma, Seattle Kokon Taiko, 1997
The first atomic bombs were exploded in the summer of 1945 on July 16, August 6 and August 9. The bombs, named Trinity, Little Boy and Fat Man were exploded in the air over Alamogordo, Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In a new work titled Trinity-8689, we explore some of the feelings surrounding our entry into the nuclear age. Alamogordo, the first section of this piece, deals with the power, precision and pride in controlling the atom and making The Bomb.

Yakudo

Composition by Wm. Satake Blauvelt & Stan Shikuma, Kokon Taiko Ensemble, 1988
Arrangement by Seattle Kokon Taiko, 1996
Yakudo, or Joyous Movement, derives from the dynamic style of drumming created by Tokyo's Sukeroku Taiko in their famous Yodan Uchi (four-sided drum). The piece features fast moving choreography with the drummers taking turns on double drum solos to a rapid horse beat, gliding and leaping between and around the drums. Perhaps better than any other, this song embodies our belief that taiko is a synthesis of Rhythm, Movement and Spirit.

Performance Session II

Northwest Taiko - Seattle, Washington

Kien Bayashi (Hayashi)

Taiko Grand Master Etsuo Hongo is one of few Japan-born instructors in the United States. He started LA Matsuri in 1977. Hayashi, composed by Hongo Sensei, incorporates a strong driving beat as the basis of this number and is performed on auspicious occasions. The beat relentlessly comes at you with the sustained tension of the call responses between drums and culminates in sudden-death ending.

Metamorphosis ("Henka": change)

Composition by Al Corral
Arrangement by Northwest Taiko
Nature attests to the certainty of change through the cycles of seasons and elements, the ebb and flow of migrations, or the birth and death of living things. Shown in this taiko piece, there is sometimes a resting place in some cycles, as in a wintering, a volcano's dormancy or an insect's cocoon, before life's torrent emerges headlong and reeling towards its own, often joyous inevitability.

Monmouth Taiko - Monmouth, Oregon

Buchiawase Taiko

This song dates back several hundred years and is from the Kanagawa prefecture. It is played at festival time for a good fish harvest. At one time it was played as a competition between two fishing villages. They would play back and forth and it was believed that the winning village would be rewarded with a better harvest.

Honen Taiko

This traditional song is from the Ishikawa prefecture. It was originally written during a severe drought to ask the heavens for rain. It was successful and there was a good harvest that year. The song today is played during festivals for a good harvest year.

Tamagawa Oroshi

This is a modern composition from Japan and written for performance Taiko.

Yushindaiko: A Japanese American Taiko Group - Seattle, Washington

Myooshin (Bright Heart/Mind)

Composition by Stanley Morgan and Masaye Okano Nakagawa
Arrangement by Masaye Okano Nakagawa
With a children's group from Nagoya as inspiration, Stan Morgan and Masaye Nakagawa collaborated to create this piece. Because it created a great lightness of heart and gave them the energy to found "YushinDaiko: a Japanese American Taiko Group", it was given the name "Myooshin", written in kanji using the character "Akarui" and "Kokoro". Since then, Stan moved to Tucson, Arizona to be closer to his daughter. He has re-used patterns and movements to create another piece, which he calls, "Nagare". Masaye is pleased that although both compositions came from the same patterns and movements, two pieces with very different looks and feels were able to be created. Rev. Mas Kodani (Senshin Buddhist Temple, Los Angeles, CA) said at the Horaku Convention in Santa Barbara in 1981, that no one today can create a taiko pattern that has not been created before, all we can do is re-discover them and make them our own by weaving them into different combinations. Very much like, "...the texture of the life to be, we weave in colors all our own, and in the realm of destiny, we reap as we have sown." Masaye hopes the weaving of this piece today touches you with textures pleasant, bright, enervating.

Kojo no Tsuki (Moon Over a Ruined Castle)

Music by Taki, Rentaro, and lyrics by Doi, Bando
Taiko composition, arrangement, and choreography by Masaye Okano Nakagawa
In the first verse of the song, we see a moon looking over the wall of a ruined castle. Together, we wonder about the people who once lived, laughed, loved, and died within these walls. The last words of verse three are, "Matsu ni utau wa, tada arashi" ("a tempest is the only melody carried through the pines") Thus begins the taiko, to playing the voices of those lives before they faded into wind.

Katari Taiko - Vancouver, BC

Shi Shi Mai (Traditional)

In Japan, the Lion Dance is performed at village festivals, and touching the lion is said to bring good luck. The lion's costume was made by Snake in the Grass Moving Theatre and its cape incorporates Northwest Native motifs.

Ja Sawago

Composition by Eileen Kage
Ja sawago is a Japanese phrase that means "let's create a commotion!" or "let's raise hell!" The piece features Japanese rap-style vocals.

Performance Session III

Portland Taiko - Portland, Oregon

Isami Goma

Composition by Daihachi Oguchi (Osuwa Daiko)
Arrangement by Portland Taiko
This taiko "standard" from the famous Japanese Taiko group Osuwa Daiko depicts the high energy of an archer on horseback.

Amaterasu

Composition by Ann Ishimaru and Zack Semke
Portland Taiko's version of the story of the Japanese Sun Goddess and her rather trying sibling, Susanoo, the Storm God.

Tatsumaki

Composition by Hiroshi Tanaka (Stanford Taiko)
Arrangement by Portland Taiko
A "whirlwind" of taiko rhythms and movement.

Sawagi Taiko - Vancouver, BC

Nobori

Nobori, written by Lisa Mah, means to rise or ascend. When she wrote this piece, Lisa had in mind the many people, but especially women, who find themselves trapped in difficult situations. She wanted Nobori to express her belief in each person's inner strength to overcome all obstacles and to create the lives they want.

Matsuri Taiko

This version of Matsuri was created by members of Sawagi Taiko using the traditional basic rhythm with new rhythms for the main song. The arrangement starts and ends with the singing of a traditional Japanese folk song called Mogami Gawa (Mogami-gawa Funa-Uta- Mogami River Rowing Song).

Seattle Matsuri Taiko - Seattle, Washington

Yataibayashi

Composition by Kodo - Arrangement by Seattle Matsuri Taiko
This song originates from the festival "Chi-Chi-Bu." It is said that the ancestors of the Japanese crossed over to Japan as vanquished people from the north and south. As they sailed across stormy seas, the drummers beat their drums in the face of rough waves to drive away fear and encourage the oarsmen to continue the hard journey. The tradition of beating drums as a form of accompaniment to labor came to be a form of musical accompaniment for festivals.

Kokyo

Composition by Kodo - Arrangement by Seattle Matsuri Taiko

Kazauta

Composition by Kodo - Arrangement by Seattle Matsuri Taiko
This song is about the celebration of the wind.

Uzume Taiko Ensemble - Vancouver, BC

Arcs & Fury

Composition by Bonnie Soon, Boyd Seiichi Grealy, John Endo Greenaway, Edward Arteaga
This piece is based on a style of drumming from the Japanese island of Miyake. The drumming movements are derived from the actions of logging, the traditional occupation on the island. Originally played with two drummers sharing one drum, in "Arcs and Fury" the lead drummers play between three drums of different sizes, accompanied by a basic played on the shime.

Nails

Composition by Boyd Seiichi Grealy, Bonnie Soon, John Endo Greenaway
In the West there is a saying, "The squeaky wheel gets the grease." In the East they say, "The nail that sticks up gets hammered down." As musicians working in a Japanese traditional art form within a western context, we try to reconcile those two disparate world views in our music. While the members of the group are responsible for developing their individual skills, the ultimate aim is a cohesive unit where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

Aiuro

Composition by Amy Newman, Boyd Seiichi Grealy, Bonnie Soon, John Endo Greenaway
In 1992 the group travelled to the Yukon Storytelling Festival in Whitehorse where we met Kazuko Furuya, an itinerant Japanese storyteller. Among her collections of songs is the folk song, "Nagamochi-uta". Amy took the basic melody and used it as a framework to create "Aiuro", or indigo. Layers of hand percussion create a sensuous groove over which the saxophone freely improvises.