



TAO: DRUM HEART

Tuesday, March 27, 2018, at 7:30pm

Colwell Playhouse

PROGRAM

TAO: DRUM HEART

Ikuo Fujitaka, director and executive producer

Yuji Urabe, sound designer

Kensuke Yamazaki, lighting designer

Junko Koshino, costume designer

PERFORMERS

Taro Haraski

Hiroyasu Yanaka

Kiyoko Aito

Junichi Haraguchi

Yasuaki Yamaguchi

Shohei Nakata

Hiroyasu Ikegoshi

Keisuke Yamamoto

Masanori Takayama

Kodai Hiwano

Tatsunori Yamaguchi

Soshiro Fukumizu

Shoya Hamada

Ryudai Ko

Shoko Sakaguchi

Ayumu Hisanaga

Daisuke Iwama

ACT I

Bukyo

Gaia

Samurai of the Ocean

Thousands of Cherry Blossoms

Kunoichi

Dreamland Symphony VII

Ginza

20-minute intermission

ACT II

Beat Beat

Glittering Forest

Da (Big Mama Drum)

Kabukeyjo

White Dragon/Black Dragon

Hanabi

Phoenix

TAO appears by arrangement with:

Columbia Artists

5 Columbus Circle @ 1790 Broadway

New York, NY 10019

Columbia-artists.com

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THE ACT OF GIVING

PROGRAM NOTES

Drum TAO was established in 1993 with the dream of creating the best show in the world using *Wadaiko* (Japanese drums), which have a very rare and unique sound. Drum TAO set their base at Oita, Japan, and started creating their own music, stage set-ups, and costumes to produce their world of entertainment. Many talented artists and staff have gathered from all over the world to join this ensemble which is why Drum TAO can deliver a peerless, modern Japanese performance.

Drum TAO brings their phenomenal performance to the stage with overwhelmingly expressive Taiko drums and the spellbinding beautiful melodies of the Japanese flute, Shamisen guitar, and Japanese harp.

TAO artists constantly train themselves to go beyond human limitation, bringing the true Japanese spirit to the stage. They have their own unique style of music, performance, staging, and entertainment which always exceeds the public's expectations of Japanese drumming.

Drum TAO's show defies all expectations! Their "state-of-the-art Japanese entertainment" has been mesmerizing people across the world.

In 2004 Drum TAO became the No. 1 box-office smash hit of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in their first year there. On the heels of that success and three-month long runs in Germany and Australia, Drum TAO started their global domination. After being invited to perform at the Vancouver Olympics in 2010, they sold out every show on their first North American tour, visiting 44 cities and performing 50 shows throughout the United States.

In 2016 their first appearance on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert* had a huge impact on Americans, and their first Off-Broadway shows resulted in great success. *Newsweek* says "the highly acclaimed debut of Drum TAO Off-Broadway represents not only Japanese entertainment but Japan itself."

In 2018 Drum TAO has 241 night-time performances, called *Mangekyo* in Tokyo for tourists from around the world and will have a year round show in Tokyo from 2019 through 2021.

After playing in over 24 countries and 500 cities, Drum TAO has been the recipient of the Sixth Annual Commissioner Award from the Japanese Tourism Agency, as well as being named "Outstanding Cultural Contribution" from Oita Prefecture. TAO rewrites the history of traditional Japanese drumming, and yet proudly remains the greatest drum performers in Japan.

TAO's home, Taketa City, Oita, is located in the middle of Aso—Kuju National Park and is surrounded by magnificent nature. It is fully-equipped with the best production environment and has a multipurpose area that includes a theatre, training room, spa, guest house, recording studio, and more. TAO's music and harmonies continue to be created at TAO's home for the world entertainment field.

TAO's Summer Festival is held every summer and fans from all over the world and artists come together to share an unforgettable experience in great Mother Nature.