

Rhythm Central: Taiko, Tabla, & Timbales

Kenny Endo, taiko • Abhijit Banerjee, tabla
John Santos, latin percussion

2011-12 Season



For booking, contact:
Pasifika Artists Network LLC
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KENNY ENDO

taiko

"Jazzy...earthy...sassy" (*Nadir Magazine, Tokyo*)



Abhijit Banerjee, tabla

"Burst of musical ideas" (*The Statesman, Kolkata*)



JOHN SANTOS, latin percussion

"..he can always get a groove going." (*East Bay Express, Oakland*)

Three World Premieres!

This collaboration calls for three percussionists from three different musical traditions to come together to each compose a new work, based in the composer's own aesthetic but "orchestrating" to incorporate all three musicians' styles and instrumentations. Each of the musicians has achieved mastery in his own genre-- Kenny Endo in taiko, Abhijit Banerjee on tabla, and John Santos on Latin percussion. Each is an experienced composer, and they all share a passion for exploring musical collaborations across genres and cultural backgrounds. Their sophisticated and complex percussion rhythms take the drum to center stage. Unlike other percussion exchanges that most often resemble virtuosic jam sessions, the goal of this project is to create three new and integrated works, each referencing its roots but creating a synthesis that embraces them all.

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Kenny Endo:

bring three percussionists together (tabla, Latin percussion, taiko) for a world rhythm collaboration which would include a commission to compose, a rehearsal period, and performance tour. Each of the three artists will compose a new work for the three percussionists, resulting in three new works, each with a different aesthetic base while integrating the three diverse percussion styles. The three artists receive equal billing, equal compensation, and make equal contributions to the project.”

The performance will consist of the three artists playing as a group, in duets, and as soloists. In addition to the new works, the artists will bring in other pieces (solo or group) to complete a full evening show. In addition to performances, the tour will offer presenters lecture-demonstrations, workshops, and master classes by the artists.

Unlike other percussion collaborations and rhythm exchanges that most often resemble virtuosic jam sessions, the goal of this project is to create three completely new and integrated works, with roots in three distinctly different drum styles, sounds, and rhythms but with a synthesis that embraces them all. Because each of the artists is experienced at teaching and giving workshops, the tour will include the opportunity for education services.

Footage of Kenny Endo & Abhijit Banerjee: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CCG10LtharM>

About the Artists

One of the leading personas in contemporary percussion and rhythm, **Kenny Endo** is at the vanguard of the taiko genre, continuing to pave new paths in this Japanese style of drumming. A performer, composer, and teacher of taiko, he has received numerous awards and accolades. He was the first foreigner to be honored with a “natori,” stage name, in Japanese classical drumming. Kenny Endo is a consummate artist, blending Japanese taiko with rhythms influenced from his jazz background and collaborations around the world into original melodies and improvisation. For more information. www.kennyendo.com.



Kenny met tabla master **Abhijit Banerjee** through UCLA’s Appex project, and was subsequently a guest artist with Banerjee’s Tarang Ensemble in India. Through these collaborations, the seeds of this project emerged. Banerjee is considered among the front ranking tabla players from India, one of the most-sought after artists in the realm of Indian classical music. He is renowned for his unique style and creative approach, for his sensitivity, skill and deep sense of musicality. In addition to his contributions to Indian music he has left his mark in a diverse field of crossover music both as a performer and composer.

www.abhijitbanerjee.com

Five-time Grammy nominee, and US Artists Fellow, **John Santos** is one of the foremost exponents of Afro-Latin music in the world today. He is known for his innovative use of traditional forms and instruments in combination with contemporary music, as well as for his groundbreaking work in bringing together styles, rhythms, concepts and artists from different generations. With over 35 years of performing and teaching, he has earned much respect and recognition as an educator, composer, and record and event producer. www.johnsantos.com



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