

NEWS



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 14, 2012
Release #02 03 12

SAN JOSE TAIKO IN SUNNYVALE MARCH 24

Renowned Japanese percussion ensemble returns in full force

SUNNYVALE, Calif. – San Jose Taiko returns to Sunnyvale Theatre on Saturday, March 24, at 8 p.m., with its show *Rhythm Journey*, featuring the full performing company onstage in a spectacular show of drumming and dance.

With its iconic “fat drums,” San Jose Taiko is easily one of the South Bay’s most recognizable and popular cultural arts organizations. However with a busy touring schedule, the group performs its full length shows publicly in the Bay Area just a few times a year. This is a rare opportunity to catch this local treasure in Sunnyvale; San Jose Taiko last performed here in 2009 to a sold-out crowd.

The internationally acclaimed ensemble fills the theater with thundering sound, color and physicality in a spectacular show of drumming and dance. Renowned for a uniquely *sansei*, or third generation Japanese-American, style, San Jose Taiko blends ancient

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Japanese rhythms and movement with African, Balinese, Brazilian, Latin and jazz percussion and contemporary dance.

Taiko troupe members not only perform, but also compose, choreograph, costume and even handcraft the drums in this art form which celebrates harmony. Group members train 5-15 hours a week to build stamina for this very physical art form.

San Jose Taiko will celebrate its 40th anniversary next season. Founders, Roy and PJ Hirabayashi, were named National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellows in 2011 for their pioneering work in bringing the art of taiko drumming to the United States.

The intimate Sunnyvale Theatre is located at the Community Center, 550 E. Remington Drive, between El Camino Real and Sunnyvale-Saratoga Road. General admission tickets are \$28. Discount tickets for students and seniors are \$22. Single subscriptions start at \$80. All Evenings of Cultural Arts programs are Saturdays at 8 p.m. Group discounts are available. For tickets, please phone the Sunnyvale Theatre Box Office at (408) 733-6611. The Box Office is open Monday – Friday, 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., and two hours prior to shows. For additional information, call the Sunnyvale Theatre Administrative Office at (408) 730-7725, TDD (408) 730-7501, or visit *Arts.inSunnyvale.com* on the Web.

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