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*Promotional photos and advance copies of new CD recording available upon request*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 26, 2010**

**Celebrating 10 years of innovation in American taiko,  
TAIKOPROJECT returns to rock the Ford Amphitheatre in  
“Rhythmic Relations 2010” July 10 & 11 at 8pm**

**Thunderous rhythms of Japanese-American group drumming from artists  
7 to 70 years old plus exciting new songs**

*“TAIKOPROJECT--this ain't your mama's taiko, but it may be your hip, younger cousin's.” -L.A. Weekly*

Los Angeles - The award-winning TAIKOPROJECT presents an exhilarating performance of the dynamic art of American Taiko with the 100 cast member production **“Rhythmic Relations 2010,” at the Ford Amphitheatre** in Hollywood. Joined by sister groups, Bombu Taiko, Kitsune Taiko & Southern California’s newest group, Loma Pacific Taiko, these ground-breaking artists will rock the Ford stage, for a third time with their enormous drums, nuanced collaborations and innovative musicianship, on **July 10 and 11 at 8:00 p.m.**

The TAIKOPROJECT, emerging leaders in the evolution of the taiko art form, continue to pave the way for the next generation of drummers in **“Rhythmic Relations 2010,”** with contemporary fusions of traditional Japanese taiko and cross-cultural music influences such as **hip hop, rock, and world music.** Led by two of America’s top taiko artists, Artistic Directors Bryan Yamami and Masato Baba, the event will feature TAIKOPROJECT’s groundbreaking hip-hop anthem *Expanding*, and a number of new works blending traditional taiko with Zimbabwean marimba, the Japanese *koto* (harp), and the *yokobue* (bamboo flute).

**“Rhythmic Relations 2010”** will exhibit some of the most diverse and beautifully made taiko drums; made by Asano Taiko Inc (formed in **1609**), which is the oldest and most prestigious drum maker in Japan. Showcasing performances by drummers ranging from 7 years of age to 70, and unparalleled skill and technique, “Rhythmic Relations 2010” is a celebration of TAIKOPROJECT’s ten years of outstanding innovative artistic and commercial work. In addition, TAIKOPROJECT will release their first CD at the performance, featuring studio tracks of some of the most exciting and innovative American taiko music ever to be recorded.

*“Over the past ten years, we’ve been really fortunate to be at the right place at the right time—coming into our own just as Mitsubishi and Nike decided to produce commercials with taiko, and when the Academy Awards, Kanye West, and 30 Seconds to Mars developed an interest in creating works with taiko,”* says Bryan Yamami, Artistic Director of TAIKOPROJECT, *“This show, Rhythmic Relations 2010, brings all the musical experiences we’ve had over ten years of creative work. We will blow the audience away with explosive and thunderous taiko songs, and also present our most intimate works yet, showing the nuanced, subtle musical side of taiko.”*

**BIOGRAPHIES:**

The **TAIKOPROJECT** is an ensemble of premiere taiko drummers dedicated to promoting and advancing the American art of taiko. Founded in 2000 in Los Angeles, the group was conceived by Bryan Yamami, with the idea of bringing together the best young taiko players in North America to create an innovative, theatrical production celebrating American taiko.

TAIKOPROJECT traveled on its first world tour in 2003 with the show *TAIKOPROJECT: (re)generation*, which seamlessly blended taiko with storytelling, music, hip hop choreography, multi-media and dance. Since then, the group has performed across the U.S., Dubai, China, Japan, Greece, and received numerous awards including First Place at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Tokyo International Taiko Contest, becoming the first American taiko group to win the entire contest. In 2005, the women of TAIKOPROJECT performed in **Mitsubishi Motors'** National Commercial for the Eclipse sports car. TAIKOPROJECT was featured in **David Mamet's** 2008 film "Redbelt," and performed with **John Legend** and A.R. Rahman (Slumdog Millionaire) at the **2009 Academy Awards** telecast.

TAIKOPROJECT continues to travel the world and cross musical boundaries by collaborating with a diverse group of artists from an array of musical genres including klezmer clarinetist Leo Chelyapov, Vietnamese pop singer Bao Han, Chicano rock band **Quetzal**, hip hop artist **Kanye West**, internationally-acclaimed European DJ Tiesto, and the Kim Eung Hwa Korean Dance Academy. In May, 2010, they were invited to perform with acclaimed rock band **30 Seconds to Mars** at their sold-out concert at the famed Greek Theatre in L.A.

**Bombu Taiko** is a community-based taiko group founded in 2002 at the Los Angeles Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple. Bombu Taiko is instructed by members of the TAIKOPROJECT. Named by Rinban Noriaki Ito after the "Bombu" of Buddhist philosophy, Bombu Taiko in its short lifespan has performed throughout Los Angeles at numerous events and gatherings, including the Nisei Week Festival, the L.A. Marathon, and gala events and dinners. "Bombu" loosely translates as "ordinary people" or the "unenlightened masses," and the joy of playing together is stressed in the group, as well as the Buddhist taiko philosophy developed by Rev. Masao Kodani and Kinnara Taiko, which emphasizes letting go of one's ego and just having fun.

**Kitsune Taiko** was founded in 2002 at the Los Angeles Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple along with Bombu Taiko and is named after the mysterious and mischievous fox (kitsune) of Japanese folklore. The 17 member ensemble consists of nine girls, who have claimed the "Shakko," or red fox, and eight boys who have claimed "Genko," the black fox as their mascot. Since then, the group has become one of the premiere youth taiko ensembles in Southern California, and many of their alumni have graduated to performing in collegiate taiko groups.

**Loma Pacific Taiko** is the newest group to join the TAIKOPROJECT family. Based at their new studio in Long Beach and composed of community members from throughout Southern California, the group is less than one year old and will be debuting one new song at Rhythmic Relations 2010.

For tickets, priced at \$40 and \$35 and \$12 for students and children, log on to [www.FordTheatres.org](http://www.FordTheatres.org) or call the Ford Box Office at **323 461-3673 (GO 1-FORD)**. Through the Ford's early buyer incentive, adults who buy tickets on or before July 3 and 4 pay only \$35 and \$30.

The Ford Amphitheatre is located at 2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East, Hollywood, CA 90068, just off the 101 Hollywood Freeway across from the Hollywood Bowl and south of Universal Studios. The grounds open two hours before showtime for picnicking. The Ford offers a number of dining options: a variety of food and beverages is available on site and box dinners for evening events may be ordered in advance. Patrons are welcome to bring their own food and drink. The Ford is disabled accessible. Portable wireless listening devices are available upon request. **On-site, stacked parking** costs \$5 per vehicle for evening shows and \$1 per vehicle for morning family shows. For evening shows only, **FREE non-stacked parking serviced by a FREE shuttle to the Ford, for evening amphitheatre performances only**, is available at the Universal City Metro Station lot at Lankershim Blvd. and Campo de Cahuenga. The shuttle, which cycles every 15-20 minutes, stops in the "kiss and ride" area.

"Rhythmic Relations 2010" on July 10 & 11 are part of the Ford Amphitheatre 2010 Season, a multi-disciplinary arts series produced by the Los Angeles County Arts Commission in cooperation with Los Angeles County- based arts organizations. For a complete season schedule, directions to the theater and parking information, log on to [www.FordTheatres.org](http://www.FordTheatres.org).

**Calendar Listing for “Rhythmic Relations 2010”**

WHEN: July 10 & 11, 2010 at 8:00 p.m.

WHO: TAIKOPROJECT presents “Rhythmic Relations 2010”

TAIKOPROJECT and sister taiko groups, Bombu Taiko, Kitsune Taiko, and Loma Pacific Taiko collaborate on a pulse-pounding drumming spectacular. Debuting new songs featured on their new CD recording, 100 taiko drummers will come together to celebrate TAIKOPROJECT’s ten year anniversary of innovation in American taiko.

Venue: **John Anson Ford Amphitheatre**

2580 Cahuenga Blvd. East, Hollywood, CA 90068

**On-site, stacked parking** costs \$5. **FREE non-stacked parking serviced by a FREE shuttle to the Ford, for evening amphitheatre performances only**, is available at the Universal City Metro Station lot at Lankershim Blvd. and Campo de Cahuenga. The shuttle, which cycles every 15-20 minutes, stops in the "kiss and ride" area.

Price: \$35, \$30 Early Buyer Tickets (purchased before July 3 & 4)  
\$40, \$35 Full Price Tickets, \$12 students/children

TIX/Info: [www.FordTheatres.org](http://www.FordTheatres.org)  
Box Office Phone – 323/461-3673

**<http://www.fordamphitheatre.org/en/events/details/id/78>**

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