



BIOGRAPHY

théâtre
LA CHAPELLE
DES SCÈNES CONTEMPORAINES

On Ensemble

With the powerful rhythms of ensemble taiko music at its foundation, the **On Ensemble** (pronounced “ohn”) combines the musical and dance talents of its four members into unique and provocative performances. As a Los Angeles newspaper put it, “**On Ensemble ... has made its mark in both the U.S. and Japan with its one-of-a-kind blend of taiko with non-traditional styles including jazz, rock, and electronic.**”

In their 50 years of combined taiko experience, the **On Ensemble**'s four young musicians have studied and performed with renowned masters of traditional and contemporary music and dance in the United States and Japan. With musical experience ranging from centuries-old Noh and Kabuki, to contemporary, experimental composition, the **On Ensemble** has crafted a repertoire of ground-breaking taiko music. After a successful debut concert in northern Japan and its first western-US tour in the spring of 2002, the group received the Duane Ebata Memorial Fund Award at Los Angeles' Japan America Theater, “**in support and recognition of emerging artists of promise who are furthering the development of Asian Pacific American performing arts.**”

Since its debut, the group has performed in and around the Los Angeles area, including the 2003 Grand Performances summer series and the UC Riverside Presents 2003 and 2004 series. Recent performances far from home, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, were equally well received. In April of 2004, **On Ensemble** performed its first-annual spring concert, Hatsune, to a sell-out audience at Los Angeles' East-West Players theater.

Current works feature these drums in conjunction with dance, bamboo flute, koto (Japanese zither), and Tuvan overtone singing.

www.onensemble.org



PRESS QUOTES

"On Ensemble ... has made its mark in both the U.S. and Japan with its one-of-a-kind blend of taiko with non-traditional styles including jazz, rock, and electronic."

Rafu Shimpo June 28, 2002

"On Ensemble has proven itself to be a talented group of young artists with exceptional potential and skill."

Duane Ebata Memorial Fund Committee June 29, 2002

"Not confined by tradition, the On Ensemble gives a novel performance."

Hokkaido Shimbun July 31, 2001

"Powerful, creative sound."

Hakodate Shimbun August 6, 2001

"The audience, having been at times surrounded by the quiet reverberations of the okoto, and at times overwhelmed by the air-crushing power of the (On Ensemble's) taiko, leaped to their feet applauding and shouting at the conclusion of the performance."

Hakodate Shimbun August 6, 2001

"On Ensemble... cannot be pigeon-holed as another genre-bending fusion group. Their mastery of traditional Japanese instruments, music and vocalization will testify to that."

Asian Pacific Arts On line Magazine August 29, 2003

QUOTES FROM PRESENTERS

"The standing ovations at the end of the finales together were truly well earned and reflected the visceral excitement that your work generated from the audiences. Your performance was truly a powerful vision of the future potential of taiko and you are four of the most talented young taiko performers in North America."

Rick Shiomi, Artistic Director
Theater Mu, Minneapolis MN

"On Ensemble is an amazing group of artists who are performing some of the most innovative taiko compositions today."

Johnny Mori, Producing Director for Performing Arts
Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, Los Angeles CA



PRESS

On Ensemble Selected as Recipient of the Duane Ebata Memorial Fund

Taiko group to be recognized at concert Saturday at Japan America Theatre.

ARTICLE, Friday June 28, 2002

The Rafu Shimpo

In recognition of its outstanding talent and unique approach to the arts, the On Ensemble taiko group is the first recipient of the Duane Ebata Memorial Fund Award for emerging artists and will be acknowledged on Saturday, June 29, following the double bill concert at 8 pm featuring Shasta Taiko and On Ensemble at the George and Sakaye Aratani Japan America Theatre.

On Ensemble is an ensemble of four musicians that has made its mark in both the U.S. and Japan with its one-of-a-kind blend of taiko with non-traditional musical styles including jazz, rock, and electronic. Ensemble members Masato Baba, Shoji Kameda, Kris Bergstrom and Michelle Fujii began studying taiko in California and made their debut last August in Hakodate, Japan.

The group will showcase their talents at the 2002 season finale of the J-Town Beat concert series at the George & Sakaye Aratani Japan America Theatre. The award will be presented on stage at the close of the concert. A post-performance reception will follow and is open to the public.

This year marks the first annual presentation of the award in his honor. The award is given in memory of Ebata, former artistic director of the JACCC, an active member of the Japanese American community and longtime supporter of Asian Pacific artists until his passing in May 2000.

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Patrick Graham

Canadian **Patrick Graham's** highly personal approach to percussion is a fusion of his training in Western classical music, a variety of frame drumming disciplines, and his explorations of Japanese, South-Indian, Mediterranean and Irish rhythms. Patrick has studied with **Glen Velez** (New York), **Pierre Béluse** (Montreal), **D'Arcy P. Gray** (Montreal), **Trichy Sankaran** (Toronto), and **Taichi Ozaki** (Tokyo). He holds a Bachelor of Music from **McGill University** (Montreal), and has attended workshops and master classes at the **Banff Center for the Arts**, **Simon Fraser University**, and the **KOSA International Percussion Workshops**, studying under **Abraham Adzenyah**, **Joe LaBarbara**, **Modesto Amagago**, **Marco Leinhard**, **Allesandra Belloni** and **Sal Ferreras**. In 2000, Patrick participated in the Taiko Koh-Kan workshops conducted by **Kodo**, on Sado Island in Japan.

An extremely versatile player, Patrick can be found performing, touring and recording regularly with a variety of artists and ensembles, including **La Nef**, **Ganesh Anandan (as GaPa)**, **FingerWorks**, **Catherine Lambert**, **Norouet**, **Ramasutra**, **Duo Frank**, and the **Nishikawa Ensemble**. Patrick has also performed with: **Carlo Rizzo**, **Ramesh Shotham**, **Miqueu Montanaro**, **Farhan Sabbagh**, **Bob Brozman**, the **Filippo Gambetta Trio**, **Rokia Traore**, **Oliver Schroer**, **Sachio Suginuma**, **Liu Fang**, **Kiyoshi Nagata Ensemble**, **Autorickshaw**, **Catherine Potter**, **Rainer Weins**, **Ben Grossman**, **Takinojo Mochizuki**, **Makoto Takei**, **Debashish & Subashish Battacharyah**, **WetFish**, the **Montréal Guitar Trio**, **Matthew White & the Skye Consort**, **Stephen Stubbs**, **Les Voix Humaines & Suzie LeBlanc**, **Les Batinses**, **Tess LeBlanc**, the **Nicholas Williams Ensemble**, **l'Ensemble Jean-François Bélanger**, **Laura Risk**, **Christopher Layer**, and **Tüq**.

He has collaborated with dancer/choreographers **Geneviève Dussault** (Montreal) and **Motaz Kabbani** (Montreal) and was a guest bodhran soloist with the **Trinity Irish Dance Company** (Chicago) for their 1999 New York performance at the World Trade Center. In 2001 and 2002, Patrick co-created and toured new works for dance and percussion with movement artist **Hideo Arai** (Tokyo).

In addition to these activities, Patrick teaches privately and gives percussion and rhythm workshops. As well as offering school workshops through the Quebec government's Culture in Education program, Patrick recently taught at the **CAMMAC** summer music camp, the **New World Festival** in Vermont, and at both **the Ikachi International Performance Festival** and the **Miyamoto Unosuke Taikokan** drum museum in Japan. In 1999, Patrick joined the **Cirque du Soleil** production *Dralion* as percussion coach.

www.patrickgrahampercussion.com



Photo : Dominique Sicotte



PRESS REVIEW

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Patrick Graham

« Patrick Graham est incroyable ... il fait de la musique avec les percussions! »
- **Marie-Christine Blais, Radio-Canada**

« ...le percussionniste Patrick Graham fait montre d'une étonnante polyvalence. »
- **Yves Bernard, Ici**

« [les percussionnistes de Fingerworks] sont maîtres de leur art [...] un trio qui possède une merveilleuse connaissance de ses instruments. »
- **John Beck, magazine Percussive Notes**

« ...on retient les intéressantes explorations aux tambours par Patrick Graham. »
- **François Tousignant, Le Devoir**

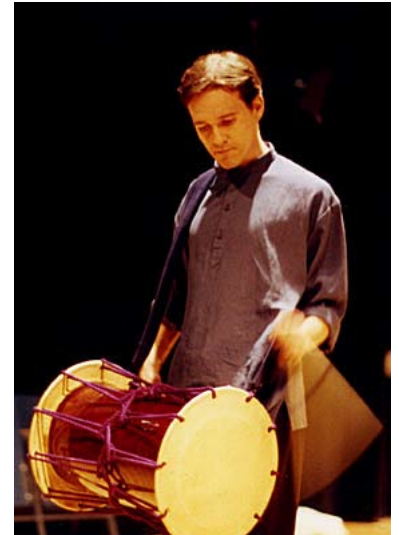


Photo : Dominique Sicotte