

Asian Celebration

January 23, 2008

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**Portland Taiko Returns to the
2008 Oregon Asian Celebration
February 16, 2008
Lane Events Center/Fairgrounds
Eugene, OR**

The Oregon Asian Celebration returns to the Lane Events Center at the Lane County Fairgrounds in Eugene, for its 22nd annual festival on February 16 & 17, 2008. Event hours are 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 pm on Saturday and 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday.

This year's Celebration features the return of the Pacific Northwest's premier taiko ensemble, Portland Taiko at 5:00 p.m. on Saturday. The award-winning Portland Taiko is widely recognized as a leading group in the North American taiko community and performs to over 70,000 people a year and has traveled to Japan for performances, workshops and intensive study with taiko masters. (Media/press photos are available at <http://www.portlandtaiko.org/press/photos.html>). Taiko performances by the Monmouth Taiko and Eugene Taiko are also planned for Sunday.

The following information is from the Portland Taiko website at www.portlandtaiko.org.

Established in 1994, Portland Taiko Ensemble is an award-winning Asian American drumming ensemble. The performers weave rhythm, melody, humor and movement together into an exhilarating musical experience. By combining traditional and contemporary compositions and choreography, Portland Taiko Ensemble takes Asian American music into unexplored territory with its innovative and provocative creations.

For thousands of years, the booming voice of the taiko, or Japanese drum, has called the community together in ceremony and celebration. Portland Taiko continues that tradition today.

The sounds of Portland Taiko echo Japanese tradition derived from centuries-old religious ceremonies, court music, and community folk festivals. Yet the compositions of Portland Taiko express the diverse experiences of Asian Americans and engage in an exciting evolution of cultural performing arts. By combining traditional and modern compositions and choreography, Portland Taiko takes Asian American music into unexplored territory with its innovative and provocative creations.

For additional background information, please visit www.portlandtaiko.org.