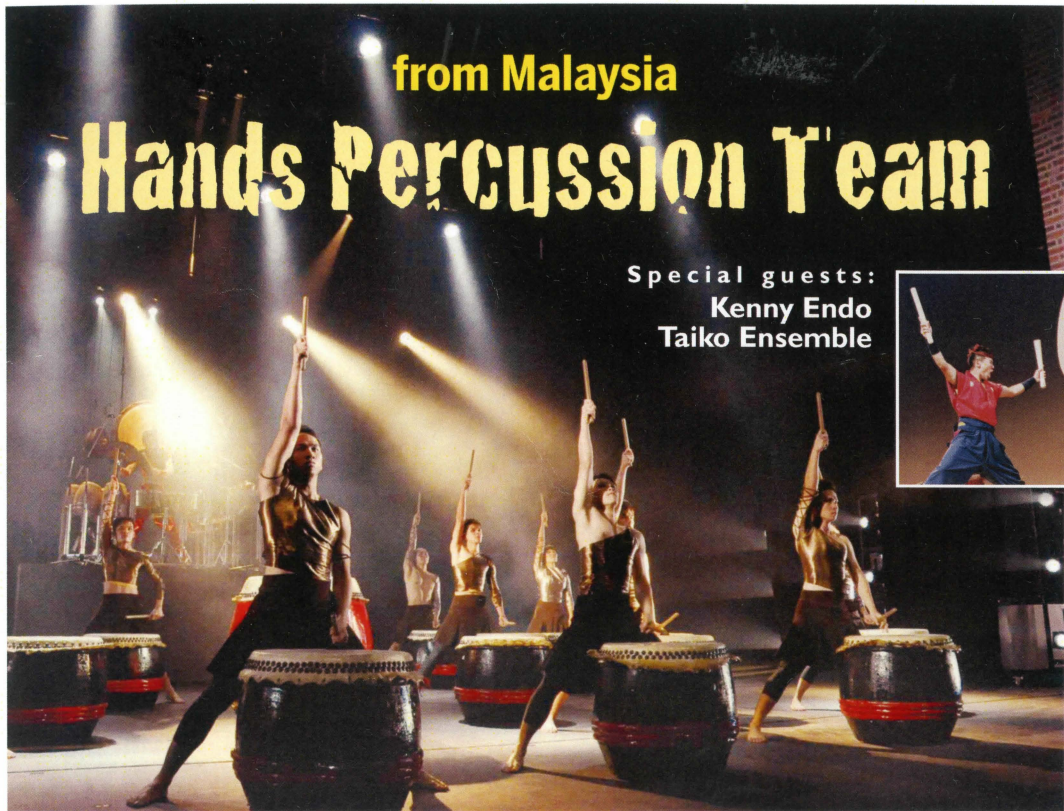


The East-West Center and the UHM Kennedy Theatre present



**September 18-19, 2010**

John F. Kennedy Theatre, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, Honolulu, Hawai'i



**EAST-WEST CENTER**  
COLLABORATION • EXPERTISE • LEADERSHIP



*This two-week statewide tour is presented in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the East-West Center, and includes performances and educational outreach in Honolulu, Waimea, Honoka'a, Kahului, Hana, and La'ie.*

## **Hands Percussion Team** **Hawai'i tour members**

**Bernard Goh Seang Heong, founder and artistic director; Eric Ch'ng Lip Kang, founder and administrative director; Lim Kean Tat and Jason Lai Pak Ling, production managers; John Siew Yi Sung, Leow Sze Yee, Chew Soon Heng, Lee Mok Yee, Tee Wee Lin, Lee Sin Yee, Leong Kah Miu, Chong Chun Yoong, Yin Mhern Loong, Sum Wai Kiat, Lee Cheng Wai, and Chin Zheng Bin**

Hands Percussion Team, a renowned Malaysian percussion ensemble, has been creating quite a wave in the music scene in Kuala Lumpur since 1997 with its ground-breaking and innovative performances. The Team has performed extensively in both the arts world and in the corporate scene; their public performances have received high critical acclaim.

The Team members endeavor to preserve their Chinese-Malaysian cultural heritage while also introducing theatrical drumming and incorporating diverse cultures.

Hands Percussion's major performances in Malaysia consistently have won awards for both composition and production, and at the same time the company is gaining worldwide fame through their performances in Thailand, Hong Kong, Singapore, China, Netherlands, Belgium, Qatar, Taiwan, Australia, Greece, and France.

Today, Hands Percussion Team has grown to include 13 full time performers, 20 part timers, and 14 trainees with a newly established headquarters and training studio. Not forgetting the importance of education, Hands is coaching in 20 schools. Hands Percussion is proud to be part of the Malaysian performing arts scene, and strives to be international in caliber, while building on Malaysia's colorful and rich traditional culture.



## **Kenny Endo Taiko Ensemble**

**Kenny Endo, founder and artistic director; Eric Chang, Hiroshi Tanaka, Ryan Luce, Chizuko Endo, Kirstin Pauka, Ai Matsuda, Cara Sawai, Courtney Miyashiro, Makiko Ino, Jade Ogoshi, Greg Socito, Scott Mita, Narciso Oyamoto, Steven Soule, Vince Okada, Yoshifumi Nogami, Jessica Seki, Chika Kawada, and Erin Takahashi**

Kenny Endo is one of the leading personas in contemporary percussion. He is the vanguard of the *taiko* genre, continuing to pave new paths in this Japanese style of drumming. A performer, composer, and teacher of taiko with numerous awards and accolades, Endo is a consummate artist, blending Japanese taiko with rhythms influenced from around the world into original melodies and improvisation. This year Endo celebrates 35 years as a career taiko artist.

The Kenny Endo Taiko Ensemble (Honolulu) was established in 1991. The Ensemble performs throughout the state and abroad, inspiring audiences with a unique repertoire of traditional and original taiko music.

### **Please—**

- ◆ No photography or recording
- ◆ Silence or turn off cell phones, digital watches, etc.
- ◆ No texting
- ◆ Contact House Manager for assistance or if you desire a large print program



# Program

## Kenny Endo Taiko Ensemble

**Clarity** by *Kenny Endo (1993)* | This piece, inspired by African-American funk music, relates to the quest for clarity of purpose, however elusive that may be.

**Yabusame** by *Osuwa Taiko, arranged by the Kenny Endo Taiko Ensemble* | Created by *kumidaiko* (ensemble drumming) pioneer Daihachi Oguchi, this piece describes the ancient samurai tradition of horseback archery.

**Symmetrical Soundscapes** by *Kenny Endo (1985)* | Originally composed as a duet featuring mirror imagery through sound, this arrangement utilizes four performers. The first part consists of traditional patterns found in Japanese classical music; the second is a lively mixture of Brazilian rhythms, Tokyo festival music, and improvised "conversation" among the players.

**Tatsumaki (Tornado/Whirlwind)** by *Hiroshi Tanaka (1993)* | This is a fast-paced, driving piece inspired by one of nature's most magnificent phenomena. Through sound and movement, the drummers depict the powerful motions of the tornado, from the calm before the storm to the whirling gusts of wind.

## Hands Percussion Team

**Drumbeat Inferno** | Drummers live on energy, and there is no energy quite like fire. The flames rise quickly, and the speed at which the inferno spreads is matched by the increasing intensity of the drummers' music, passion and strength. For a few brief minutes, the fiery composition consumes the drummers in a frenzy of leaps and turns, that in the end leaves them soaking wet.

**Fruition** | Fruition, the result of 10 years of sheer dedication to an art form that has evolved with this group of musicians will thrill you. A master drummer goes beyond conventional drumming, creating a relationship with his instrument that requires control, maturity and sensitivity. He/she has tamed the instrument and is able to manipulate it. It's no longer just about beats, rhythm, speed or volume. A drummer's gender, physique, weight, strength and feelings play a part. Space, lights, melody or the lack of it during a performance are equally important. The size, weight, type of drums, the number of performers on stage, partners—all count. All these elements contribute to the unique style explored in this piece, including the innovative drumming without framed beats. The strangest or perhaps most meaningful aspect of all of this is the *love* which drives these drummers to continuously reinvent themselves.

## Intermission

**Gu.Koism: Welcome to the wedding of Gu and Ko** | A wedding banquet is under way, two lovers from the East exchange vows, joining two great cultures and traditions. The *jiang zhou* and the *taiko* families are determined to put on an unforgettable show for their guests. Homage to two of the great influences in the drumming world: the Chinese *jiang zhou* and the Japanese *taiko*.

*Support for the Hawai'i residency of Hands Percussion Team has been provided by Japan Airlines and Hawaiian Airlines. Mahalo also to Travel Point Holiday Sdn Bhd and the U. S. Embassy in Kuala Lumpur.*



*Additional generous support for EWC Arts Programs is provided by the Hawai'i Pacific Rim Society, Friends of Hawai'i Charities, the Cooke Foundation, Atherton Family Foundation, and contributors to the East-West Center Foundation, including members of the EWC Arts 'Ohana.*



**The East-West Center** promotes better relations and understanding among the people and nations of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific through cooperative study, research, and dialogue. Established by the U.S. Congress in 1960, the Center serves as a resource for information and analysis on critical issues of common concern, bringing people together to exchange views, build expertise, and develop policy options. The Center is an independent, public, nonprofit organization with funding from the U.S. government, and additional support provided by private agencies, individuals, foundations, corporations, and governments in the region. **The East-West Center Arts Program** for three decades has enriched the community through concerts, lectures, symposia, and exhibitions focusing on traditional arts of the region, and by arranging cultural and educational tours by artists who are skilled in bridging cultures. <http://Arts.EastWestCenter.org>

**EWC Arts Team:** Karen Knudsen, director, External Affairs; William Feltz, arts program manager; Michael Schuster, Ph.D., curator; Eric Chang, arts program assistant; Eugene Alexander, program officer; Anna Reynolds, arts assistant. **Mahalo** also to Prof. Barbara B. Smith, Ricardo Trimillos, Lynne Najita, Pattie Dunn, Derek Ferrar, Shayne Hasegawa, Tina Tom, Loraine Ikeda, Carol Matsuda, Deanna O'Brien, Floren Elman-Singh, Lucy Kamealoha, Reynold Balintec, EWC Facilities Management, Kenny & Chizuko Endo, International Travel Service (ITS), Kennedy & Preiss Graphic Design, Miyamoto Taiko, and the EWC Southeast Asian participants.



**The Department of Theatre and Dance at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa** is internationally recognized for its unique multicultural approach to the study of theatre and dance. Its location in the middle of the Pacific allows for a rich exposure to theatre and dance from the East and West, both for students and the community at large. Both the academic program and the full season of productions in the beautiful Kennedy Theatre complex aim to expose students and audiences to works in the areas of Asian Theatre, Western Theatre, Youth Theatre and Dance. The Department offers Undergraduate and Graduate degrees in Theatre and in Dance.

**Kennedy Theatre Team:** W. Dennis Carroll, department chair; Marty Myers, theatre manager; Gerald Kawaoka, technical director; David Gerke, Maseeh Ganjali, Daniel Sakimura, technical crew; Kristina Tannenbaum, Sarah Rohde, Alisa Small, house management staff; Sarah Carlton, Jordon Hensley, Cindy Hartigan, Nick Husted, Jennifer Tagupa, box office staff. **Mahalo** to David Griffith, the UHM Department of Theatre and Dance faculty and staff, and guest technical crew members Sandy Sandelin and Patrick Lum.