

“Hinotori” – The Wings of Phoenix

*The dawn is beginning to break again.
Now is the time to get up.*

*We have not been defeated
Even though we hit the mountain that rises high
Even slipped and fallen into deep valleys
We've gotten back up again and again*

Just when we began to over-confidently believe that we could go anywhere

Under the sky, on the Earth

*We were confronted by the biggest mountain I'd ever seen
We sank into a valley deeper than any valley I've ever slid down
In the shadow of the huge mountain
In the darkness of the pitch-black valley floor
We were swallowed up*

Despair and Hope

But we did not forget the sun that shone beyond

*We continued to struggle and walk
And now we see the light again*

*Now is the time to rise again
Fly high*

Firebird

*Flying high, clothed in sunshine
We spread the wings of our burning souls*

We are Phoenix

22I23 SEASON

 UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

presents

**YAMATO: THE DRUMMERS OF JAPAN
HINOTORI: THE WINGS OF PHOENIX**

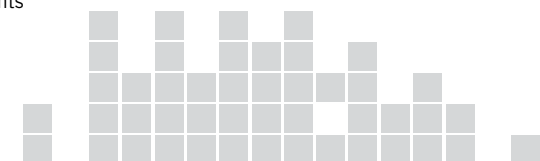
FRI, MAR 24, 7:30 pm
Hodgson Concert Hall

**Supported by
JANET RODEKOH
CLAY AND AMIE DUNFORD**

YAMATO is represented by IMG Artists, LLC.
7 West 54th Street New York, NY 10019. 212-994-3533

Please silence all mobile phones and electronic devices. Photography, video and audio recording, and texting are prohibited during the performance.

#ugapresents



PROGRAM

1. **Habataki – Wingbeat**

Throughout history, humanity has persevered through countless challenges.

Even now, as we live through tumultuous times, we are tossed and buffeted by the tumultuous waves.

But even as we bear the weight of grief and sorrow, we will take flight like the Phoenix rising from the ashes.

The beating of our hearts, resonating within our bodies, will transform into wings, and carry us aloft.

2. **Toon – Tone**

The various lives we live, the diverse landscapes, the human tapestry, our likes and dislikes,

Our daily lives and this world, and you and I, all painted in a spectrum of hues. If we listen closely, we can hear the melody of distant places.

3. **Netsujoh – Passion**

A burning, intense feeling that wells up within the heart, A soul that blazes like fire within the body.

With that flame as our guiding light, we walk forward, Carrying our passion aloft, beating our Taiko drums.

4. **Tamayura – The Sound of Soul**

The moment when two perfect spheres touch, the sound that echoes forth.

A fleeting eternity, where hearts that never stay still and hearts that are forever free meet. Let each sound, each note, resound and harmonize.

5. **Masurao – The Brave Heart**

For centuries, the Japanese Taiko drum has always been a source of courage for people.

As the centerpiece of festivals celebrating life, people were drawn to its sound, singing and dancing.

The robust sound played instills the courage to live and the courage to fight. Let us play it now, this sound of courage in this place, today.

INTERMISSION

6. **Rakuda – Joy of the Beat**

Rakuda is a coined word, combining the characters for “enjoyment” and “to play the drum”. The sound (pronunciation) of the word is inspired by the animal “rakuda” in Japanese. The song, Joy of the Beat, is imagined to convey a sense of ease and carefree like the animal ‘rakuda’, that wanders aimlessly through the endless desert, with a sense of joy, that’s what we mean by “Rakuda” and is considered one of YAMATO’s most representative pieces and YAMATO continues to travel the endless world with this piece.

7. **Rekka – Wildfire**

As the name suggests, this song embodies the meaning of a fierce, burning flame. Through the Taiko drum, those who spar and strive together scatter sparks.

The energy of heartbeats that clash with rich individuality. Before long, the heartbeats synchronize.

8. **Garakuta – Odds and Ends**

Odds and ends are things that have become useless and have no purpose. But they are not trash, they may be someone’s treasure.

The title written in Kanji, the meaning is “I have fun”

Maybe I have a reason to be born in this world, but I don’t serve much purpose... But still, I think in my own way and I’m alive today.

It’s a comical song that uses a small instrument called chappa, instead of Japanese Taiko drums.

9. **Enzin – Ball of Fire**

Fall seven times, stand up eight, let’s do our best. Even if we fall, we will rise again.

Sleeping too much when tired is not good for the body. Let’s push forward without thinking about minor details. Things will happen if you make them happen.

If you don’t do anything, nothing will happen. Today too, full throttle ahead!



PERFORMERS

Akiko Ogawa
Mika Miyazaki
Marika Nito
Jun Kato
Kenta Ono
Naoki Ekihiro
Nene Miura
Jo Nakamura
Daisuke Jonai
Tatsuya Iwaki
Genta Ogawa

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Masa Ogawa

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Marika Nito

TOUR MANAGER

Satomi Ikeda

TRANSPORTATION

Bill Cook
Eliza Wiley
Marketing & Publicity
Rebecca Davis Public Relations

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

YAMATO: THE DRUMMERS OF JAPAN

YAMATO is a Japanese Taiko drumming group based in Asuka-mura Nara Prefecture which is well known by Japanese people as the hometown of Japan. They call themselves “YAMATO, the Taiko drumming group that travels all over the world”. They have given more than 4,000 shows across 54 countries around the world since their formation in 1993.

YAMATO's Taiko work cannot be fully described by the word “performance.” They have performed in theaters, schools, all types of events, and even held workshops and Taiko lessons. They are spending a half year on a Japan tour and a half year for the world tour. Their motto is “We go everywhere when somebody needs YAMATO! And bringing energy to the people living in the world!” They bring joy to the world.

On stage, they are standing with more than 40 Taiko drums and all of them are having different characters. For example, their largest drum called “Odaiko,” produced from a huge tree over 400 years old, is approximately two meters in diameter and weighs 500 kg. All other Taiko drums are different sizes and have different sounds.

The members of the group have trained their bodies to the limit to beat these massive Taiko drums.

The acoustic pressure far surpasses what one could imagine.

They do not simply make their Taiko drums explode with sound; they produce delicate music that provides the listener with a palette of meticulously crafted sound. This is why YAMATO's original performances are known as “Physical music,” and continue to receive high acclaim all over the world. YAMATO is sometimes intense, sometimes sad, sometimes comforting, and, in the next moment, comical on stage.

The audience is more than a group of bystanders at their performances.

The audience is engulfed in the sound of the Taiko, and sweat, cry, and laugh; they become one with the performers. All types of people gather around the sound of the Taiko, interweaving their lives, and feeling the power of each other's inner passion and heart.

They come together to create an instant in which they truly feel alive.

“Discover the new experience by Taiko sounds which has never feeling before.”

YAMATO is still traveling around the world.

