



Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall presents
SHARE THE MUSIC



TEACHER RESOURCES

YAMATO

The Drummers of Japan

FRIDAY, JANUARY 24, 2020

Roy Thomson Hall, 60 Simcoe St., Toronto, ON
Workshop: 7 PM | Concert: 8 PM



To apply for tickets for your school or community group to attend this *Share the Music* event, please visit roythomsonhall.com/sharethemusic

TAIKO TRADITION

Founded in Japan's Nara Prefecture during 1993, YAMATO is a very colorful, high-energy band that embraces Japanese Taiko (太鼓) tradition and showcases the spirit of Japan all around the world with their jaw dropping performances. Taiko is a broad range of Japanese percussion instruments. In Japanese, the term refers to any kind of drum, but internationally, taiko refers to any of the various Japanese drums called wadaiko (和太鼓 "Japanese drums") and to the familiar form of ensemble drumming more specifically called kumi-daiko (組太鼓 "set of drums"). Some of those drums are made from trees that are more than 400 years old! What one feels when surrounded by the sound of wadaiko, brought out by these highly trained performers, is what the Japanese call "tamashii", translated as soul, spirit, and psyche – the basic elements of life.

The group is the perfect example of teamwork; they live in a community in order to create everything by themselves from their theatre production and costume design to choreography and bachi (their drumsticks). This year, YAMATO is performing their newest program "Jhonetsu" which captures YAMATO's virtuosity, strength, spirit, and sheer endurance.





DID YOU KNOW?

THE DRUMMERS OF YAMATO CAN PLAY A 500KG DRUM, PERFORM TO AROUND 300,000 PEOPLE EACH YEAR, AND HAVE SHOWCASED THEIR TALENT IN MORE THAN 51 COUNTRIES ALL AROUND THE GLOBE!



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ◆ What are some characteristics of taiko instruments?
- ◆ In what ways does your own cultural background influence your interpretation of music from another culture?
- ◆ How does one's culture affect musical style and composition? What are some examples of instruments that are specific to your culture? Have students in your classroom research instruments connected to their own cultural heritage and share some music with the class.
- ◆ YAMATO is a huge collective. How do you work in harmony with so many other musicians? What are some desired personality traits when working as a big team of musicians?



FURTHER RESOURCES

INTRODUCTIONS OF TAIKO AND INSTRUMENTS

OFFICIAL WEBSITE: <http://yamatodrummers.com/>

IMG ARTISTS - BIOGRAPHY: <https://imgartists.com/roster/yamato-the-drummers-of-japan/>

HANDOUT - DESCRIPTION OF DIFFERENT TAIKO INSTRUMENTS (PDF):

https://imgartists.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Yamato_Introductions_of_Taiko_and_instruments.pdf

RHYTHM PASSPORT - YAMATO INTERVIEW (MARCH 2017):

<http://www.rhythmpassport.com/articles-and-reviews/interview/interview-yamato-drummers-march-2017/>

TO LISTEN

Yamato - The Challengers ([Spotify](#))

SHARE THE MUSIC:

Share the Music, presented by the Corporation of Massey Hall and Roy Thomson Hall, aims to enhance and broaden students' musical horizons by providing tickets to world-class performances and educational pre-concert workshops. Schools and community groups are invited to apply for complimentary *Share the Music* tickets to Yamato and other notable performances in the 2019/20. For more information, please visit roythomsonhall.com/sharethemusic

CONTACT EDUCATION & OUTREACH TEAM:

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