

**ON ENSEMBLE TO PRESENT NEW WORKS
IN FIRST-ANNUAL LOS ANGELES HOME-SEASON CONCERT**

LOS ANGELES - Feb 2, 2003

The four-member taiko group, On Ensemble (<http://OnEnsemble.org>) presents its first-annual home-season concert, "On '04 : Hatsune". New works for taiko (Japanese drums) will be presented at 8pm, Friday, March 12 in the intimate David Henry Hwang Theater at the Union Center for the Arts (East West Players), located downtown at 120 Judge John Aiso St., Los Angeles, CA 90012. Tickets are \$15, available at the door and through the On Ensemble ticket line, 323-965-9324.

"On '04 : Hatsune" features the debut of two completely new works, incorporating lyrical vocals and complicated, interlocking rhythms. The music of "Hatsune" melds the powerful sounds of taiko with Japanese dance, Tuvan throat singing, and a variety of eastern and western instruments. According to Johnny Mori, one of the principle founders of North American taiko and Producing Director for Performing Arts at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, "On Ensemble is an amazing group of artists, performing some of the most innovative taiko compositions today." The Rafu Shimpo says, "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."

The On Ensemble's four members have studied extensively with master musicians and dancers in Japan and the United States, including founding member of Sukeroku Daiko, Kiyonari Tosha, shamisen master Kineyakatsu Yukie, and master dancer/choreographer Shohei Kikuchi. On Ensemble's members have toured professionally with Shasta Taiko, San Jose Taiko, and the internationally known taiko artist/performer, Kenny Endo. Performer/singer Yuta Kato will join these four members onstage, performing On Ensemble repertoire as well as his acclaimed solo piece, "Hachijo".

Photographs available on request. Interviews with performers can be scheduled (see contact information above).

CONTACT:

Kristofer Bergstrom
On Ensemble
310-350-8825
kris@OnEnsemble.org

