

真鼓音

Makoto Taiko

2016

Annual Report



Photo Credit: Shuichi Aratsu & Toshiko Okawa

... delivers a powerful Odaiko solo in Kaiko at the 2016 "One Pulse" concert.

Dear Friend,

It's hard to believe that we are already three months into 2017. As we forge ahead full steam with this year's programs, I would like to take a moment with you to review our accomplishments for 2016.



~~Makoto Taiko~~ work is guided by our mission

***global communities by preserving and sharing
ing through performances, classes, and other***

Our achievements in 2016 reflect a continuation of our commitment to this mission.

With your support in 2016, we were able to increase our capability to develop and share new interpretations of taiko drumming at the "One Pulse" concert at Thorne Hall in Occidental College through purchasing specialized bachi and commissioning custom drum stands. Your contributions made it possible for us to invite a number of local organizations to experience taiko. For many, this was the first time they had ever heard taiko. Our 2016 community workshop initiative broadened our focus on educational and charitable activities to include the larger community. Over the latter half of 2016, we held community taiko workshops for students at Mirai Gakuen Japanese school, individuals of AbilityFirst, and members of the John Muir High School Drum Section.

Makoto Taiko's accomplishments could not have happened without the heartfelt support and dedication of supporters like you. We are so fortunate to work with a wonderful group of members and supporters helping us further our mission to inspire our community through the powerful energy and spirit of our drumming. As we plan our activities for 2017, we will continue to build upon our experiences from these programs and seek to always provide high quality cultural arts to as many audiences as possible. Thank you very much for your continued support!

Akemi Imai

Board of Directors



o, Martin

As the highest governing body of the organization, Makoto Taiko's nine-member board of directors ensures that our programs and policies align with our mission and are ethically and financially sound. The board is committed to transparency in organization procedures and integrity in all decision-making.

Officers



Makoto Taiko's four officers oversee the daily tasks required to keep classes, workshops, performances and general operations running smoothly. Officer positions consist of President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Artistic Director.

Instructors



Makoto Taiko's instructors develop curriculum and teach a variety of styles and songs ranging from beginner to advanced repertoire. Led by Grammy Award-winning taiko master Koji Nakamura, each instructor draws on his or her experiences to share the art and spirit of taiko drumming to our members. All instructors have composed at least one original composition.

Our Members



Makoto Taiko members attend weekly classes and range in experience from beginner musicians to veteran artists. Some of our members are Japanese Americans seeking an opportunity to connect with their heritage, while many others are non-Japanese people learning about Japanese culture through this vital art form. With approximately 70 adult and youth members, we are one of the largest community taiko groups in Southern California. Located in Pasadena, we have members throughout the San Gabriel Valley and beyond. Makoto Taiko's programs are more than just a place to learn and play taiko. Through our joyful and artful interpretation of Japanese culture, we spread good energy, music and joy to members and our local communities.

In 2016, Makoto Taiko debuted a semi-professional team that pursues a high level of artistry and technique and represents Makoto Taiko with the highest level of performance quality. This group made its first appearance at the "One Pulse" concert with new compositions, one of which was a collaboration with guest artist Jason Yang.



Overview of Programs and Activities

At the 2016 concert, "One Pulse," we introduced new compositions that could only be achieved by the acquisition of instruments to complement our taiko drums. With the support of the Aratani Foundation and supporters like you, we were able to increase our capability to develop and share new interpretations of taiko drumming through the purchase of special (drumsticks), and the (metal percussive instrument) as well as commission the creation of an upright Odaiko stand that allowed us to explore new compositions that were not technically possible before.



In 2015, Makoto Taiko created a community initiative, "Concerts for Community", to introduce taiko to new audiences by providing complimentary tickets to our concert for youth and veterans. Continuing this program in 2016, we were able to expand our initiative with support from our donors. Since we strongly believe that music and art have the power to unite, inspire, and empower, we selected six organizations with missions that align closely with our own. We reserved over fifty tickets to allow individuals affiliated with artworxla, CoachArt,

the John Muir (High School) Drum Section, and Verdugo Woodlands Elementary School (Japanese-English dual-immersion program) to experience taiko. For many, this was the first time they have ever heard taiko.

Makoto Taiko also kicked off a community taiko workshop initiative in 2016. Although providing educational and charitable activities has always been at the core of Makoto Taiko's mission, we aspired to broaden our focus to include the larger community. We held a taiko workshop for students of Mirai Gakuen at the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute in July to begin our community initiative. Fifteen students ranging in age from four through twelve participated in a two-hour workshop to learn the history of taiko, basic drills, and a song.



In September, Makoto Taiko partnered with AbilityFirst, an organization that provides opportunities for youth and adults with developmental disabilities to put on a mini-workshop. The enthusiasm from the participants clearly indicated that this organization would be an upcoming workshop partner.

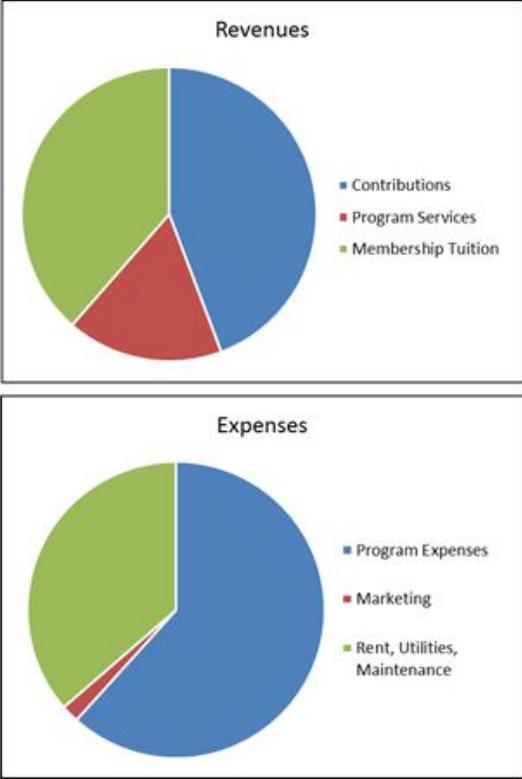
Additionally, Makoto Taiko ran a 10-week class for members of the John Muir High School Drum Section to introduce them to a different style of percussion. At the conclusion of the 10-week course, the John Muir Drum Section performed together with Makoto Taiko in a recital in December. The students greatly enjoyed the opportunity to learn music from a new and unfamiliar culture.

A video of the 10-week program can be viewed at this link:
<https://youtu.be/9kwSZfjKgIk>.



Together with educators and staff from these various organizations, Makoto Taiko will continue to hone curriculum to make these taiko workshops meaningful for participants of varying ages. With support from our donors, we purchased materials to make practice drums, fully subsidized the cost of tuition and (drumsticks) for each student in our workshops, and set aside funding for educational trainings to develop curriculum and training for workshop leaders.

Summary of Finances



| | 2016 |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Revenues | |
| Contributions | \$ 40,051 |
| Program Services | \$ 15,542 |
| Membership Tuition | \$ 34,905 |
| Total Revenue | <u>\$ 90,498</u> |
| Expenses | |
| Program Expenses | \$ 34,066 |
| Marketing | \$ 1,065 |
| Rent, Utilities, Maint. | \$ 20,089 |
| Total Expenses | <u>\$ 55,220</u> |

Makoto Taiko is fortunate to have a strong member base and donor support from family, friends, and foundations. Tuition revenues, donations, and concert revenues provide sufficient funds to support our expenses. Our largest source of income is contributions from donors, demonstrating the importance of donations in sustaining and improving our programs. Membership tuition and revenues from Program Services such as ticket sales and performance fees helps cover general operational expenses including rent, utilities and maintenance of the facility, drums, and equipment. The annual concert, instructor compensation, and insurance makes up the largest components of Program Expenses.

In 2016, Makoto Taiko was honored to be the recipient of a grant from the Aratani Foundation which enabled Makoto Taiko to produce an exceptional annual concert, purchase unique equipment to expand our repertoire, conduct community workshops to children and the disabled, and offer a music enrichment course for the local public high school.

Thank You!

We are very fortunate to have your support during 2016 which helped us accomplish so many milestones in terms of our community outreach activities. In 2017, we have begun to strengthen our operations as a nonprofit organization with the addition of our first-ever part-time Programs and Administrative Assistant. As we dive into preparations for the 2017 concert, "RISE", and plan additional community drum experiences in collaboration with local events such as ArtNight and Akabeko Project, we hope to have your continued support for 2017. Thank you very much!