

OPEN CALL: VOLUNTEERS
TAIKO COMMUNITY ALLIANCE REGIONAL GATHERING SERIES: “STRONGER TOGETHER”
CALGARY, ALBERTA, CANADA

The Alberta Taiko Community consists mainly of taiko groups from three major cities: Edmonton, Calgary, and Lethbridge. Although each group has existed for many years, we are spread apart geographically. In the past, there have been scarce opportunities or encouragement for us to gather to celebrate our love for this artform, to network and socialize, and to learn more about taiko together. We are also connected to other taiko groups in neighbouring provinces and territories, who share both our love for taiko and the geographic distance and isolation from most of the bigger US taiko conferences. The conversion of the Canadian dollar, as well as the cost of international travel, are common barriers for many Canadians who wish to be more active in the taiko community.

We want to celebrate our common love for taiko and strengthen our connections. This proposal will outline the plans for a regional gathering in July 2022, with the theme of “STRONGER TOGETHER”. The theme and objectives of this conference is to

- bring together taiko players from the region to build a stronger local taiko community
- to improve existing taiko networks
- to forge new friendships and relationships between members and groups
- to provide learning opportunity for personal growth and development
- and for players and groups to share their knowledge and learn about each other.

The format will be workshops, discussion groups, social time, and a performing opportunity. There are plans to encourage local taiko community engagement leading up to the event, in the form of small focus groups (such as the Composition Focus Group, and the Warmup/Stretch Group).

LOCATION

The proposed venue for this event is the Conservatory at Mount Royal University, which is located in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

(<https://www.mtroyal.ca/ProgramsCourses/FacultiesSchoolsCentres/TheConservatory/index.htm>)

The Conservatory is home to many successful music programs and events year round, and has teaching facilities for individual work, small ensemble, or large group activities. There are also different performing venues at the Conservatory. Teaching facilities typically include an instructional space, whiteboard, laptop and projector, and sound system. Additional specific teaching needs can be accommodated in advance.

SUMMARY OF CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday July 22 (evening):

- Opening session, jam, and social time
- Opportunity for TCA official introductions and information
- Jam ideas: hachijo party, matsuri showcase/jam
- Social time
- Composition Project: Composition Focus Group teach their composition to help bring people together

Saturday July 23:

- Group Warmups and Cooldowns
- Taiko workshops (2 blocks)
- Community Building Discussion Groups and Activities (1 block)
- Small taiko vendor space to buy bachi or other taiko accessories
- Space for a TCA information table near the vendor space to help increase the TCA presence in Canadian taiko

Saturday FREE Concert:

- Special guest artists (optional?)
- Collaborative pieces (Omiyage, Taiko Voices, Ei Ja Nai Ka, etc)
- Community showcase of groups
- We hope to offer this concert as a free event, open to the public

Sunday July 24:

- Taiko workshops (1 block)
- Community Building Discussion Groups and Activities (1 block)

Sunday Afternoon and Evening: Mountain Group Activity

- Fun Time with Taiko Friends!

VOLUNTEER DESCRIPTIONS:

Concert Manager: Working closely with the Stage Manager, Performers, and Event Co-ordinator, this volunteer role will help plan the concert content and produce the materials required for the concert (stage plans, theme for marketing, etc)

Equipment Manager: Working closely with the workshop instructors, discussion facilitators, and Event Co-ordinator, this volunteer role will ensure the correct equipment is available for workshop sessions, and that all equipment is well cared for, during the event. We need this person to make sure we have enough drums for each workshop, take care of labelling and tracking all the equipment, organize and manage the drum locations, and coordinate transportation (if required).

Social Manager/Committee: Working closely with the Event Co-ordinator, this volunteer role(s) will help plan all the Social aspects of the weekend (for example: Friday Opening Session, jams, Sunday group outing)

Hospitality Manager: Working closely with Housing and the Event Co-ordinator, this volunteer role will organize group lunches and dinners, and on-campus accommodations. We need this person to help plan the group meals, order food and arrange pickup, arrange for any volunteers they might need, take care of cleanup and leftovers. This person will also help arrange on-campus accommodations for out-of-town participants.

Social Media/Marketing Manager: Working closely with the Photographer(s), Concert Manager, and Event Coordinator, this volunteer role will market the event using social media and/or other methods of marketing, to attract workshop registrants and concert audience. Ensure to promote sponsors or financial supporters. This person will also post on social media during the event and afterwards (thank yous etc). They will also provide photos and videos (with proper permissions) to the participants after the event.

Photographer(s): Working closely with the Event Co-ordinator and the Social Media/Marketing Manager, this volunteer role will be to take photos and/or videos of the participants during the workshop, take a group photo of everyone together, and take photos of performers during the concert (all with proper permissions). We would like the photos to be freely shareable, with proper credit, after the event.

Warmup/Stretch Focus Group: This volunteer group will collaborate (virtual options available) before the event to develop the group warmups and stretching sessions. Group members should have knowledge of physical fitness, injury prevention, and proper warmup and stretching sessions, respect for a variety of fitness levels, possible injuries or chronic conditions, and age of participants. The group can appoint a leader to lead the session, or lead together. This group will give updates and forward any facility requests to the Event Coordinator prior to the event.

Composition Focus Group: We need this group to collaborate (virtual options available) before the event, to compose a new beginner-level taiko piece to showcase and teach during the Opening Session. Members should have basic taiko skills and knowledge as well as enthusiasm, willingness to collaborate, and be able to work with others in a creative environment. Previous composition skills are an asset, but an openness to learn new things is also important. The piece should be open to the taiko community to share. The group can appoint a leader to lead the session, or lead together. This group will give updates to the Event Co-ordinator and equipment requests to the Equipment Manager.

Interested parties should express their interest in writing, indicating which position they are interested in volunteering for, and detailing their experience with the job description, prior to March 1, 2022.

Please submit information or any questions to Paula Nieckar at paula@calgarytaiko.com.