

OPEN CALL: WORKSHOP AND DISCUSSION FACILITATORS
(Optional Performing Opportunity)
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!

JOB DESCRIPTION

We are looking for workshop and discussion facilitators who are experienced in community building and teaching taiko to a variety of skill levels. We are open to multiple single applicants, or apply as a taiko group! All facilitators will work together prior to the gathering with the organizers to determine and co-ordinate their workshops and discussion topics. Travel to Calgary and on-campus accommodation to be provided.

Interested parties should express their interest in writing, detailing their experience with the event themes, prior to March 1, 2022. Please submit information or any questions to Paula Nieckar at paula@calgarytaiko.com.