

Uncommon Time: Taiko, Tabla, & Timbal

Kenny Endo, taiko • Abhijit Banerjee, tabla
John Santos, Latin percussion



For booking, contact:
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KENNY ENDO

taiko

"Jazzy...earthy...sassy" (*Nadir Magazine, Tokyo*)



Abhijit Banerjee, tabla

"Burst of musical ideas" (*The Statesman, Kolkata*)



JOHN SANTOS, Latin percussion

"..he can always get a groove going." (*East Bay Express, Oakland*)

The drum takes center stage in this collaboration among three rhythmically-complex music traditions. Each of the musicians is a master in his genre--

Kenny Endo in taiko, **Abhijit Banerjee** on tabla, and **John Santos** on Latin percussion.

Each is an experienced composer, and they share a passion for exploring musical collaborations across genres and cultural backgrounds.

With *Uncommon Time*, the chance drum exchange has evolved into a witty and heartfelt musical dialogue among cultures, as these three musicians, experienced in cultural exchange, create new compositions using the rich palette of percussion forms, rhythmic interchange, and an array of instrumentation.

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Kenny Endo: *"There are great drumming traditions from all over the world and this work brings together Afro-Caribbean, Indian, and Japanese musical cultures. It is rare for drummers to be featured and to step out of the role of being accompaniment to theater, dance, and other instruments. We hope our music will resonate and give hope to appreciating differences around the world and at the same time show the potential for working together to create."*

The performance consists of the three artists playing as a group, to create a full-evening show of new works. Unlike other percussion collaborations and rhythm exchanges, this project creates completely integrated works that draw from roots in three distinctly different drum styles, sounds, and rhythms but with a synthesis that embraces them all.

The work premiered in Hawai'i at Leeward Community College in January 2012.

Each of the artists is experienced at teaching and giving workshops; the tour will include the opportunity for education services, such as lecture-demonstrations, workshops, and master classes by the artists.

Uncommon Time YouTube clips (by invited link only): <http://youtu.be/Yi7tPVXfb0Y>

TECH:

Sound – 14-15 mics with boomstands, 3 monitors, backline (Latin percussion)

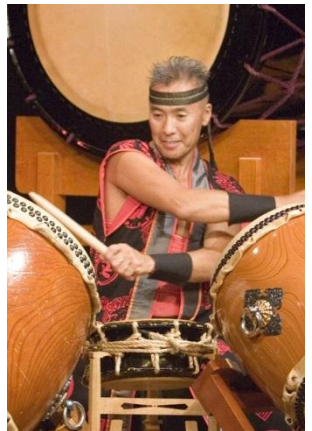
Lighting: 5 overhead lighting specials

Stage: One 4ft x 8ft riser for the tabla player, chair for conga player

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

One of the leading personas in contemporary percussion and rhythm, **Kenny Endo** is at the vanguard of the taiko genre, continuing to pave new paths in this Japanese style of drumming. A performer, composer, and teacher of taiko, he has received numerous awards and accolades. He was the first foreigner to be honored with a "natori," stage name, in Japanese classical drumming. Kenny Endo is a consummate artist, blending Japanese taiko with rhythms influenced from his jazz background and collaborations around the world into original melodies and improvisation. For more information.

www.kennyendo.com.



Kenny met tabla master **Abhijit Banerjee** through UCLA's Apex project, and was subsequently a guest artist with Banerjee's Tarang Ensemble in India. Through these collaborations, the seeds of this project emerged. Banerjee is considered among the front ranking tabla players from India, one of the most-sought after artists in the realm of Indian classical music. He is renowned for his unique style and creative approach, for his sensitivity, skill and deep sense of musicality. In addition to his contributions to Indian music he has left his mark in a diverse field of crossover music both as a performer and composer. www.abhijitbanerjee.com

Five-time Grammy nominee, and US Artists Fellow, **John Santos** is one of the foremost exponents of Afro-Latin music in the world today. He is known for his innovative use of traditional forms and instruments in combination with contemporary music, as well as for his groundbreaking work in bringing together styles, rhythms, concepts and artists from different generations. With over 35 years of performing and teaching, he has earned much respect and recognition as an educator, composer, and record and event producer. www.johnsantos.com



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