

MONDAVI
CENTER
Arts Education

CUE
Sheet
for Teachers

Dear Teachers:

We hope you will find this CueSheet helpful in preparing your students for what they will experience at the Yamato, Drummers of Japan matinee at Mondavi Center. The CueSheet provides background information on this unique company and their performance.



Yamato
The Drummers of Japan

THU, OCT 15, 2009 | 11:00 AM JACKSON HALL

Recommended for grades K-12

ABOUT

Yamato was founded in 1993 by Masa Ogawa in Nara, the ancient capital of Japan and "the land of Yamato". In the eighth century, Japan was known as Yamato, and Nara was the city where Japanese culture is believed to have started. Since its creation, the group has made over one thousand live performances to over one million people in more than 20 countries in Asia, Europe, and the Americas. The group's international debut occurred in 1998 at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, where the group was awarded the "Spirit of the Fringe" award. The following year, the group embarked on three international tours, covering South America, six countries in Europe, and Israel.

Yamato combines traditional Japanese musical formats with modern rhythms and themes. Performances are infused with the idea that the drumbeat, like the heartbeat, is the very pulse of life. That pulse grows to a thunder as Yamato's taiko drummers put their souls into playing the traditional Wadaiko drums that range from the tiny hand-held Uchiwa Daiko to the giant Odaiko, made from a 400-year-old tree.

Taiko drumming is one of the signature traditional arts of Japan, and Yamato, The Drummers of Japan represents the new generation of the ancient art. The 10 young men and women of Yamato—when first introduced the inclusion of women was a radical step in taiko—fill the stage with drums, in sizes ranging from a few inches in diameter to giant drums six feet across, augmented with gongs, flutes, shamisen, and koto.



LEARN MORE

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZO47QxV-iY>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dark883eH3s>
<http://www.yamato.jp>



ROBERT AND MARGRIT
MONDAVI CENTER
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
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THINK ABOUT IT!

DEAR STUDENTS

- 1 How would you describe a Yamato performance to a friend?
- 2 According to their tradition, the Yamato drummers aim to express the "rhythmic beatings of the human spirit" through their music. In what ways do the performers convey this intention? What feelings did you have while you listened to the music and watched the musicians?
- 3 What did you like best about the performance and why? Was the program different from what you expected? How?



ATTENDING THE THEATER

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF STUDENT AUDIENCES AT THE MATINEE:

- Enter the auditorium quietly and take your assigned seat immediately (note that all matinees have reserved seating);
- Show courtesy to the artist and other guests at all times;
- Demonstrate appreciation for the artist's work by applauding at the appropriate times;
- Refrain from making unnecessary noise or movements;
- Please eat lunch before or after the performance; food is not allowed in the performance hall;
- Relate any information acquired from the pre-matinee discussion to the new information gained from the matinee;
- Please do not use flash photography.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT OF YOUR EXPERIENCE IN A PERFORMING ARTS THEATER:

A theater is a charged space, full of energy and anticipation. When the house lights (the lights that illuminate the audience seating) go down, the excitement level goes up! Theaters are designed so that the voices of the singers and actors and the music of the musicians can be heard. But this also means that any sound in the audience—whispering, rustling of papers, speaking and moving about—can be heard by other audience members and by the performers. Distractions like these upset everyone's concentration and can spoil a performance.

The performers on stage show respect for their art form and for the audience by doing their very best work. The audience shows respect for the performers by

watching attentively. Applause is the best way for audience members to share their enthusiasm and to show their appreciation for the performers. Applaud at the end of a performance! Sometimes the audience will clap during a performance, as after a featured solo. Audience members may feel like laughing if the action on stage is funny, crying if the action is sad, or sighing if something is seen or heard that is beautiful.

Appreciation can be shown in many different ways, depending upon the art form and the culture(s) of the people in the audience. While the audience at a dance performance will sit quietly, other types of performance invite audience participation.

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Don Roth, Ph.D Executive Director

Joyce Donaldson Associate to the Executive Director
for Strategic Projects and Arts Education

Ruth Rosenberg Professional Development
Programs Coordinator

MondaviArts.org
530.754.5430

MONDAVI CENTER ARTS EDUCATION

Arts Education provides CueSheets for all performances in the Mondavi Center 2009-10 School Matinee Series. They are intended to help teachers prepare their students for the school matinee that they will attend at Mondavi Center, UC Davis.



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