

人
力

YAMATO

THE DRUMMERS OF JAPAN



McANINCH ARTS CENTER

Feb 23, 2025



Welcome to the MAC! Your home for entertainment.

I have worked in the performing arts for the entirety of my career and after 10 seasons at the MAC, I can unequivocally say our patrons are ***Simply the Best!*** The support you provide and the sense of community you have fostered make the

MAC such a special place for all who step through the doors. In honor of our patrons, the MAC is bringing you ***Simply the Best*** in the 2024-2025 season. Get ready for an incredible year with the best shows.

Join us for a complimentary pre-show MAC Chat or Q&A following specific performances. Our arts center, located in a community college, offers over 60 student productions supported by professional lighting, sound, and costumes. These can be enjoyed at affordable costs, or you can attend our FREE programs like Music Fridays at Noon and our free International Global Film series in February. We hope to exceed your expectations with excellent service and special pre- and post-show engagement opportunities. These will help you connect with the artists and art forms more deeply. While you are here, don't forget to visit the Cleve Carney Museum of Art in the lobby to experience cutting-edge contemporary art. You can also enjoy our full-service concession area and gift shop.

After your visit, please stay connected with us by joining us on Facebook (AtTheMAC) or subscribing to our e-newsletter to find out about added shows, events, and special offers (www.AtTheMAC.org). We challenge you to try something new at the MAC and expand your cultural palate. Come see the New Philharmonic Orchestra or a Buffalo Theatre Ensemble play. Or join us this summer for the Hokusai exhibit. We are grateful for your presence here and we want to ensure that your visit is enjoyable. If you need anything, please don't hesitate to ask any of the staff and we will do our best to accommodate you.

Thank you for being a part of our community of arts enthusiasts and being ***Simply the Best!*** We can't wait to share these unforgettable experiences with you and hope you have a wonderful time. We look forward to entertaining you and seeing you at the theater.

Enjoy the show!

Diana Martinez
Director, McAninch Arts Center

McAninch Arts Center
at College of DuPage
presents

YAMATO the Drummers of Japan

World Tour 2025-2026

人の力 - **Hito no Chikara**
The Power of Human Strength

The McAninch Arts Center acknowledges support from
the Illinois Arts Council Agency.



Sun, Feb 23, 2025, 7:00p
Belushi Performance Hall

ABOUT YAMATO THE DRUMMERS OF JAPAN

YAMATO the Drummers of Japan

YAMATO is a Japanese Taiko drumming group based in Asuka-mura Nara Prefecture which is well known by Japanese people as the hometown of Japan. They call themselves “YAMATO, the Taiko drumming group that travels all over the world”. They have given more than 4,500 shows across 54 countries around the world since their formation in 1993.

YAMATO’s Taiko work cannot be fully described by the word “performance”.

They have performed in theaters, schools, all types of events, and even held workshops and Taiko lessons. They are spending a half year on a Japan tour and a half year for the world tour. Their motto is “We go everywhere when somebody needs YAMATO! And bringing energy to the people living in the world!”. They bring joy to the world.

On stage, they are standing with more than 40 Taiko drums and all of them are having different characters. For example, their largest drum called “Odaiko”, produced from a huge tree over 400 years old, is approximately two meters in diameter and weighs 500 kg. All other Taiko drums are different sizes and have different sounds. The members of the group have trained their bodies to the limit to beat these massive Taiko drums.

The acoustic pressure far surpasses what one could imagine.

They do not simply make their Taiko drums explode with sound; they produce delicate music that provides the listener with a palette of meticulously crafted sound. This is why YAMATO’s original performances are known as “Physical music” and continue to receive high acclaim all over the world. YAMATO is sometimes intense, sometimes sad, sometimes comforting, and in the next moment comical on stage.

The audience is more than a group of bystanders at their performances.

The audience is engulfed in the sound of the Taiko, and sweat, cry, and laugh; they become one with the performers. All types of people gather

ABOUT YAMATO THE DRUMMERS OF JAPAN

around the sound of the Taiko, interweaving their lives, and feeling the power of each other's inner passion and heart.

They come together to create an instant in which they truly feel alive.

“Taiko drumming, to the unexplored field.”

YAMATO is still traveling around the world.

ABOUT THE SHOW

「人の力」 “Hito no Chikara” - The Power of Human Strength

Technology is a tool,
It is humans who wield it.

With the advancement of technology,
An era where technology possesses intelligence.

Will humans become tools used by technology?
What will become of human existence?

In this age where humans are alive,
Beat the Taiko drum.

Made of a huge wooden body and cowhide,
Resonating with the power of the human body.

It is the heartbeat.

The Power of Human Strength.

“Artificial intelligence” has become a major topic of discussion recently. Since the birth of humankind, people have been repeatedly making ingenious efforts to make our lives more convenient and better. The development of science and technology. One of the products of this development is artificial intelligence.

It is said that "artificial intelligence," technology as a tool for people to

use, has the potential to surpass people.

It is said that artificial intelligence will take on many of the tasks that have been done by humans.

Will people be used by the tools they have created?
Or will we no longer need people in the future?

What will happen to taiko drumming?
Will there ever be a machine that can play taiko with unparalleled accuracy? Will advanced algorithms make them sound human-like?

That is it.

Let us beat the taiko as we are YAMATO.

The sound that one strikes resonates with the human heart.

The sounds struck by the heart, resonating with each other, will become “Hito no Chikara” – The Power of Human Strength.

We do not know when the end of humanity is, but we will strike until that moment. Like the beating of the heart that will continue to beat as long as we live.

So, I asked the artificial intelligence ChatGPT about “Hito no Chikara” – The Power of Human Strength.

“Hito no Chikara” - The Power of Human Strength by ChatGPT

“The Power of Human Strength” can evoke various images and interpretations depending on the context. Here are a few possible interpretations:

1. **Strength and resilience:** It can symbolize the inherent strength and resilience of human beings. This could be portrayed through images of individuals overcoming challenges, pushing their limits, or demonstrating physical or mental strength.

ABOUT THE SHOW

2. Creativity and innovation: “The Power of Human Strength” can also represent the ingenuity and creative abilities of humans. It could be associated with images of artistic creations, technological advancements, scientific discoveries, or any form of human innovation.
3. Unity and collective action: This phrase can highlight the power that comes from people coming together and working towards a common goal. Images depicting teamwork, cooperation, activism, or community engagement can represent the power of human unity.
4. Compassion and empathy: “The Power of Human Strength” can be seen through acts of kindness, compassion, and empathy. Images showing people helping others, volunteering, or engaging in humanitarian efforts can illustrate this aspect of human power.
5. Personal growth and self-realization: “The Power of Human Strength” can also be interpreted in terms of individual growth, self-improvement, and the realization of one's potential. Images depicting personal achievements, self-discovery, or transformative experiences can represent this aspect of human power.

These are just a few examples, and the meaning of “The Power of Human Strength” can vary depending on the perspective and context in which it is used.

AI and “The Power of Human Strength” differ in several ways:

1. Autonomy and consciousness: AI operates based on programs and algorithms, autonomously processing information and making decisions. In contrast, “The Power of Human Strength” comes from self-awareness, subjective experiences, and conscious actions.
2. Emotions and ethics: Humans possess emotions and can make ethical judgments and act accordingly. AI lacks emotions and ethical considerations, relying on programmed rules and design principles.

ABOUT THE SHOW

3. Creativity and intuition: Humans engage in creative thinking and problem-solving, often relying on intuition. While AI can exhibit a certain level of creativity, its expression differs from human creativity and is based on algorithms and data.
4. Physical constraints: Humans have physical bodies and operate within physical constraints. In contrast, AI exists in a digital form, free from physical limitations, and can process information at high speeds.
5. Experience and learning: Humans learn and grow through experiences. While AI can also learn through algorithms and data, its learning is based on programmed information rather than personal experiences.

Overall, AI exhibits advanced capabilities in information processing and cognition, but “The Power of Human Strength” encompasses emotions, ethics, creativity, intuition, physical limitations, and the richness of personal experiences.

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Jun Kato.....	Member
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Mika Miyazaki	Member
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Daisuke Jonai.....	Member
Genta Ogawa.....	Member
Wakaba Sudani	Member
Yumesa Tanaka	Member

Act 1**躑 Ashioto – Footsteps**

It appeared on a barren land, rising at dawn, and began walking toward the sun. It crossed fields, mountains, and valleys, passing through spring, summer, autumn, and winter. As the sun set, it lay down, admired the moon, and counted the stars. Born and vanished, vanished and born again, it rises, walks, and keeps walking. What is it striving for? Why does it continue to walk? The sound of footsteps echoes through the air.

有頂天 Ucho-ten – Rapture

This is the pinnacle of the world. Today, I have reached the highest point I have ever known. For now, I will forget everything and celebrate the self that arrived here today. It is incredible. I feel on top of the world. My life is going splendidly... until the wind blows, sweeping me back to the start. When reality hits, fear creeps in, so I will laugh it all off and keep pushing forward. Tomorrow, I will climb even higher. I am aiming for the very top.

烈火 Rekka – Wildfire

Bodies collide, flesh against flesh. Sound against sound. But what truly clashes are the inner souls. Each body, ignited by a multitude of souls, burns with flames of varied hues. Sparks fly, as vibrant flames clash, pulsing to the rhythm of beating hearts. The flames begin to synchronize with the beats, becoming one, fiercely and beautifully burning. What can be seen within that blazing unity? The roar of sound resonates.

我楽多 Garakuta – Odds and Ends

Voices of odds and ends are heard. Their voices, small and cheerful, play with the day today. There is no grand reason to speak of, no particularly profound cause. These odds and ends serve no specific purpose and are of no use to the world. Yet, there is a spirited desire to express this: There is no trash in this world! Everything, surely, is someone's treasure! Little hearts resonate together. "Odds and ends" written in kanji as "我 (ga), 楽 (raku), 多 (ta)" translates to "I have fun." This is a comedic piece using a small instrument called a "chappa," not a traditional Japanese drum.

壹徹 Ittetsu – Stubborn

Once I am resolved, I pursue my goal without diversion. I press on with unwavering determination, embodying "stubborn persistence." An unbendable belief, once so steadfast, twists and bends under various temptations. My strong will and resolve sometimes fade, becoming nearly

invisible. Even today, struggling not to succumb to defeat, I continue to battle with myself. I live with a clear mind and straight purpose. Just keep drumming!

INTERMISSION

Act 2

熱情 Netsujoh – Passion

Born into this world as a human, carrying a passion that endures as long as life persists. The fervor that burns in the hearts of all who live in the present moment. Now is the time to raise that passion high. With the flame of this fervor, illuminate the darkness and forge ahead on the path that lies before us. Let us raise our voices and thrust our fists skyward. The heart, an engine beating strongly within, sends energy to both body and spirit. Hearts dance with the joy of shared smiles. O flame of passion, illuminate the world and its people.

爛爛 Ran-Ran – The Glaring Thing

A glowing light within the heart, a brilliance shining deep in the eyes. Quietly present, clearly existing, unyielding to any force that may come. Close the eyes to behold it. With resolve, lift your face, and in that moment of opening your eyes, light bursts forth from within. A flash of brilliance carves out the path that must be followed. Let us proceed without hesitation.

輩 Yakara – The Guys

Not knowing when one transitions from child to adult. No matter how old we grow, we can never fully become adults. Dreams, hopes, ambitions, and desires. Repeatedly swinging between joy and sorrow. Let us cherish the innocent and pure parts within each other, embracing and supporting one another. Let us stand together, sweating and shedding tears, once more. Grimly determined.

樂打 Rakuda – Joy of the Beat

“Raku-da” is a coined term combining the kanji for “fun” (樂, raku) and the kanji for “to drum” (打, da). The sound of the term evokes the image of a camel in Japanese. It conveys a sense of the camel's slightly whimsical demeanor, wandering through the endless desert. “Raku-da” represents “drumming with joy,” and this song embodies that spirit. It is considered one of the representative pieces of YAMATO, with the group traveling through an endless world with this music.



Dining Partners

Eat, drink & enjoy - MAC dining partners

Coupons are only valid on performance days or nights.

For all your pre-show meals and post-show bites, we are thrilled to be partnering with these neighborhood restaurants. Our dining partners offer MAC patrons exclusive discounts and special offers. All MAC ticket orders receive coupons to these local favorite restaurants!



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The Friends of the MAC is a family of those who have decided that a world-class performing and visual arts center should reside in their community. Ticket sales provide only 42 percent of our \$4 million operating budget. It is through the support of College of DuPage and through the generous gifts from patrons and local businesses that we can keep art in our museum and on our stages.

Your Gift to the MAC

- Brings nationally and internationally renowned artists to our community
- Supports our SchoolStage program that annually offers affordable arts experiences to thousands of schoolchildren
- Provides students and community members the opportunity to interact with artists
- Enhances quality of life in our community

Without the generous support of the Friends of the MAC, we would not be the beacon for the arts in DuPage County. We gratefully thank our friends, and we invite others to join them.

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Donor may choose to direct gifts to the Arts Center Endowment or the MAC-tastic Treat Seats – Tickets for Kids & Families Endowment. Donations made to these MAC Endowments, our “savings accounts,” go into principal secured, invested accounts that will provide ongoing support for arts programs and arts accessibility for years to come.

The McAninch Arts Center and the College of DuPage Foundation can also provide you with information on planned giving options, gifts of stock, IRA Charitable Rollovers and other giving opportunities.

For complete details, visit the MAC Box Office or contact the College of DuPage Foundation at (630) 942-3088 or foundation@codfound.org.

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Volunteer at the MAC

We are always looking for enthusiastic, dedicated, reliable and customer service-oriented people to become Volunteers serving as ushers, greeters and docents at our events.

Volunteers provide invaluable service by assisting guests to their seats, answering questions and most importantly creating a welcoming environment for our guests.

Volunteers are unpaid, but that doesn't mean you won't be rewarded. The cultural perks you'll enjoy as a volunteer include vouchers for every shift worked offering discounts to use at the MAC Box Office and invitation to our annual volunteer appreciation dinner including prizes and gifts.

Visit AtTheMAC.org/Volunteer to fill out an online application and for more information on requirements and qualifications. Applications accepted year-round.

Questions or for more information, contact Volunteer Coordinator Rob Nardini: email nardinir@cod.edu, phone (630) 942-3705.



HOUSE NOTES

- Cameras and recording devices are not allowed in the theater and are prohibited by our contracts with the artists.
- Smoking is not permitted in the theater or on campus.
- For your comfort and security, all backpacks and large bags must be checked.
- Please turn off all cell phones and any other alarms while in the theater.
- Emergency phone number at COD Police Department for after-hour calls is (630) 942-2000.
- Latecomers seated at discretion of the House Manager.
- Groups of 10 or more may contact (630) 942-3026 or grouptix@cod.edu to arrange for group discounts.
- If you notice a spill in the theater, please notify an usher.
- McAninch Arts Center volunteers are people who assist the house staff in areas of ticket taking, ushering and general management during performances. To get involved, call (630) 942-3705.
- For **Americans With Disabilities Act** accommodations, call (630) 942-2141 (voice) or (630) 858-9692 (TDD).
- **Infrared Assistive Listening Devices:** For audience members who desire audio amplification of performances, headsets with individual volume controls are now available. You may check out the headsets at the Box Office with a driver's license. *Underwritten by a generous gift from The Knowles Foundation.*

MAC STAFF LISTING

MAC Administrative Staff

Director of the McAninch Arts Center	Diana Martinez
Business Manager	Molly Junokas
Project Manager	Kari Schoettle
Assistant Business Manager	Brianna Garcia
Curator, Cleve Carney Museum of Art	Justin Witte
Assistant Curator	Julia Walker
Gallery Assistant	Madelene Przybysz
Marketing and Patrons Services Coordinator	Janey Sarther
Graphic Designer	Wendy Melgar
Director of Development for Cultural Arts	Jon Nadel
Education and Community Engagement Coordinator	Mandy Rakow
Office Manager/Events Coordinator	Morgan Bainbridge
Student Clerical Assistants	Katie Aviles, Kate Cadag

MAC Box Office and Front of House Staff

Box Office Manager	Julie Elges
Assistant Box Office Supervisors	Daniel Arzola, Elise Wash
Box Office Assistants	Patrick Garon, Joanne Hunt
Patron Services Manager	Tom Murray
Assistant Patron Services Supervisor	Deborah Kolek
House Manager/Volunteer Coordinator	Rob Nardini

MAC Resident Professional Ensembles

Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Interim Managing Artistic Director	Amelia Barrett
Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Interim Associate Artistic Director	Daniel Millhouse
Buffalo Theatre Ensemble, Business Manager	Bryan Burke
New Philharmonic, Music Director and Conductor	Kirk Muspratt
New Philharmonic, Associate Conductor and Librarian	Benjamin Nadel
New Philharmonic General Manager	Paula Cebula
New Philharmonic Personnel Manager	Karen Dickelman
New Philharmonic Assistant Librarian	Ryan Michel

MAC Design and Technical Staff

Technical Production/Lighting/Sound Coordinator	Richard Arnold, Jr.
Technical Theater Supervisor	Sabrina Zeidler
Costume and Make-up Design Coordinator	Kimberly G. Morris
Assistant Costume Coordinator and Stitcher	Gretchen Woodley
Production Manager	Joe Hopper
Sound and Lighting Specialist	Ben Johnson
Lighting Production Specialist	Elias Morales
Audio Production Specialist	Fisher Parsons
Events Production Specialist/Tech. Director – BTE	Caitlyn Woods
Stage Hands	Bobby Bryan, Zak Zubka



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