

# ZOELLNER ARTS CENTER

LEHIGH UNIVERSITY



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PLAYBILL



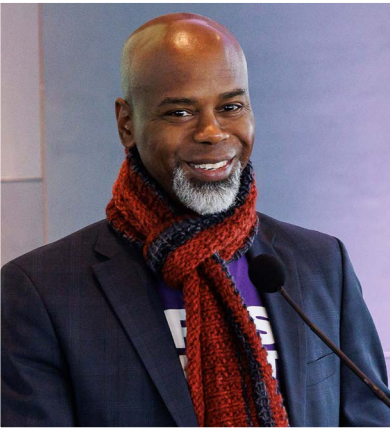


Photo By John Kish IV

## DEAR FRIENDS,

We are at the beginning of a new arts Renaissance. There are moments when one can feel the shifting tides of change and that moment is now as people return to live performing arts. I have had many conversations about the role of the arts in bringing our diverse urban, suburban, and rural Lehigh Valley communities together through shared experiences. The 2024-2025 season will rejuvenate our spirits through world-class artists as we continue to gather.

Montreal-based Cirque Kikasse starts our Presenting Series with a unique twist,

performing their production of *Santé* in front of Fritz Laboratory on our Lehigh University campus. This one-of-a-kind FREE performance, set on a food truck, will connect our campus, surrounding community, and local students in a truly memorable way. Our dedication to inclusivity and diversity in the arts is exemplified by our partnership with the internationally acclaimed disability arts ensemble, Kinetic Light. Their residency, a testament to our shared values, will intertwine with Touchstone Theatre's Festival Unbound, culminating in a breathtaking performance of *DESCENT*. This dance performance promises to be a powerful and moving experience, showcasing the transformative power of art and the positive impact of our partnerships.

In case you missed Marc Martel's sold-out tribute to Queen the last time, he is returning to perform his spectacular show, *One Vision of Queen*. I knew he had to come back. I could not go anywhere without people asking me to bring him back. He's back. And if you happen to be asking for a little R.E.S.P.E.C.T., join us for an electrifying tribute celebrating the music of the legendary Aretha Franklin.

With our commitment to nurturing the next generation of art enthusiasts and helping create a healthy community, we continue our Family Series partnership with Lehigh Valley Reilly Children's Hospital events like Family Day Fest, a celebration of community partners, free activities, and music by Somos Amigos featuring Sonia de la Santos and the Grammy Award-winning band, The Okee Dokee Brothers.

Zoellner Arts Center embraces our role as a university-based presenter to transcend entertainment. Lehigh University student artists are integral to this construct as they present concerts and plays celebrating their creativity and that of the faculty that inspires them.

We strive to empower the youth of our community by curating and co-curating high-quality multidisciplinary arts programs with educators that integrate the arts into their classrooms and inspire students to create their own artwork. We remain steadfast in our commitment to foster meaningful dialogue by utilizing the arts as a lens through which we explore and celebrate our shared humanity.

*Mark Fitzgerald Wilson*

Executive Director

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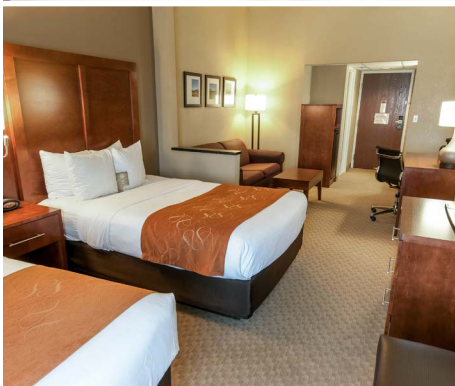
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FEB 1 Sat  
7:30pm | Baker Hall

# YAMATO: THE DRUMMERS OF JAPAN

*HITO NO CHIKARA: THE POWER OF HUMAN STRENGTH*



SUPPORT FROM:



JAPAN FOUNDATION  
国際交流基金

**ZOELLNER  
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LEHIGH UNIVERSITY



2024.2025  
SEASON

Zoellner Arts Center receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.





**YAMATO the Drummers of Japan**

**World Tour 2025-2026**



**“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.

**Yamato** appears by arrangement with IMG Artists, LLC  
7 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019. 212-994-3500

## Message

“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?

Leaving that aside...

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.
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.
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.

YAMATO World Tour 2025-2026「人の力」Hito no Chikara - The Power of Human Strength

### **Program**

#### **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.

#### **2. 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.

### 3. 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.

### 4. 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.

### 5. 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

### 6. 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.

### 7. 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.

### 8. 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.

## 9. 楽打 Rakuda - Joy of the Beat

“Raku-da” is a coined term combining the kanji for “fun” ( raku) and the kanji for “to drum” ( 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.

### **ABOUT**

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 55 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 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.

YAMATO is still traveling around the world.



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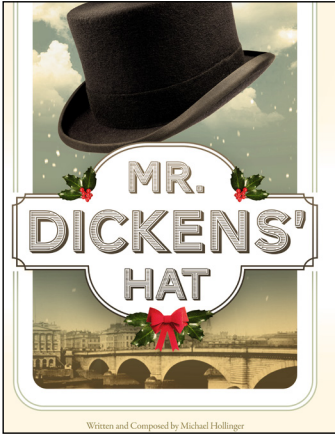
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Single tickets ordered by phone or online carry fees ranging from \$2.25-\$8.50 per ticket. Tickets purchased in-person may carry fees of up to 50 cents per ticket. The City of Bethlehem Amusement tax is 5% on tickets above \$10, with a cap of \$2 per ticket. Additional delivery charges may apply, check online for details.


# OUR GIFT CERTIFICATES NEVER EXPIRE.

Purchase these at Ticket Services or online  
in any amount and give  
the gift of entertainment.

Certificates cannot be redeemed for rental events.

## CONNECT WITH US!

 ZoellnerArts

 zoellnerartscenter

 zoellnerarts

 inzactix@lehigh.edu



GO TO WEBSITE

[zoellnerartscenter.org](http://zoellnerartscenter.org)

[#artshaveimpact](https://twitter.com/artshaveimpact)

# HOUSE NOTES

**Concessions:** At this time, food and beverage service will likely be limited or not available. Check the “Know Before You Go” email sent to ticket holders the week of the show. Be sure to give Ticket Services your email.

**Please silence all mobile devices upon entering the theatre.**

**To leave theatres during performances,** use the rear doors, if you are able, to minimize disruption of performance.

**Late seating occurs at suitable intervals.** While waiting, you may watch performance on lobby monitors.

**Lost & Found:** Contact Ticket Services. Not responsible for lost or stolen items.

## **Families with Children:**

We welcome children of all ages to our Family Series shows. For performances not listed as Family Series in our brochure, we recommend that attendees be ages four and over. Everyone entering the theatre must have a ticket, and sit quietly in a seat throughout the performance. There are closed-circuit monitors in the lobby which supervised children may use to watch performances if they need a break.

**Accessible seating** can be requested when purchasing tickets. Accessible parking is on levels 1 and 3 in the parking garage.

**Free assistive-listening devices** are available through Ticket Services for amplified performances.

**Free Sensory Kits** are available to checkout, please inquire at the box office or with an usher.

## Questions about your tickets?

**Contact Ticket Services:**  
Phone: 610-758-2787 ext. 0  
Email: [inzactix@lehigh.edu](mailto:inzactix@lehigh.edu)

**Box Office Hours:**  
TUE 12-6; WED-FRI 12-5  
For ticketed events: SAT 2 hours prior to curtain, 90 mins. all other days.






All programs and artists are subject to change. In the event of a cancellation or material change, we will make every effort to contact all ticket holders. We must reserve the right to make any changes whatsoever in the event owing to any unforeseen or unavoidable cause or to cancel the event for any reason beyond our control without being liable to pay any ticket holder compensation for damages other than a ticket of comparable value to an event (based on availability).

Video recording or photography may occur for this performance that might include images of audience members. Your attendance at today's performance grants permission for further usage of such images.

# ZOELLNER ARTS CENTER

## 2025 SPRING SEASON AT A GLANCE



LUVME .....	JAN 31
YAMATO: THE DRUMMERS OF JAPAN .....	FEB 1
JAZZ FACULTY .....	FEB 2
KING'S RETURN .....	FEB 7
ONE VISION OF QUEEN FEATURING MARC MARTEL .....	FEB 8
FIRST BIENNIAL SALERNI ART SONG RECITAL .....	FEB 9
PHILHARMONIC .....	FEB 14, 15
THE PRINCETON SINGERS .....	FEB 16
PROOF .....	FEB 21-MAR 1
THE ALUMINUM SHOW  FAMILY SERIES .....	FEB 22
BELLA GAIA .....	FEB 28
JAZZ REPERTORY ORCHESTRA .....	MAR 1
EUGENE ALBULESCU .....	MAR 2
ACADEMY OF ST MARTIN IN THE FIELDS .....	MAR 7
NEW YORK JAZZ REPERTORY ORCHESTRA .....	MAR 8
CHOIR, DOLCE AND GLEE CLUB .....	MAR 21, 22
GOODNIGHT MOON & THE RUNAWAY BUNNY  FAMILY SERIES .....	MAR 23
EARL.  .....	MAR 27
PASCUALA ILABACA Y FAUNA .....	MAR 28
THE SOUND OF (BLACK) MUSIC .....	MAR 29
CALPULLI MEXICAN DANCE COMPANY .....	APR 4
R.E.S.P.E.C.T. .....	APR 6
MICHAEL JORGENSEN, VIOLIN AND STEVE BECK, PIANO .....	APR 6
PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER .....	APR 10
AMERICAN BRASS QUINTET .....	APR 11
THE BOOKSTORE .....	APR 11-19
SYMPHONIC BAND  .....	APR 13
PHILHARMONIC .....	APR 25, 26
WIND ENSEMBLE .....	APR 27
CHORAL ARTS .....	MAY 2, 3
STUDENT JAZZ CONCERT .....	MAY 4
THE PAPER ESCAPER  FAMILY SERIES .....	MAY 11
THE DOO WOP PROJECT .....	MAY 17

KEY: PRESENTING SERIES | MUSIC DEPARTMENT | DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE

