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Website: <http://www.unr.edu/pas>

Photos available for download at the series website: <http://www.unr.edu/pas/media.html>

## BRILLIANT TAIKO-WORLD-FUSION GROUP "ON ENSEMBLE" DELIVERS GROUNDBREAKING RHYTHMS AT UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO, MARCH 4

Called "completely original, brilliantly conceived," On Ensemble takes ancient instruments into cutting-edge realms

Reno, Nev., Feb. 22, 2010 - Wielding rare Japanese drums and modern Icelandic electronica with equal ease, the four extraordinary musicians of On Ensemble (pronounced ohn; with a traditional mark over the O) transform centuries-old traditions and utterly esoteric instruments into urban-club trendy with a hip-hop edge.

On Ensemble is set to awe the 2009-2010 Performing Arts Series on Thursday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m. in Nightingale Concert Hall on the University of Nevada, Reno campus.

Known for a fearless mix of intercultural crossovers and a groundbreaking diversity of influences, the group has performed with such 21st-century artists as Stevie Wonder, Grammy-nominated fusion icons, cutting-edge filmmakers and avant-garde theatre. In high contrast to the group's cutting-edge modernity, On's revered taiko drum-maker and one of Japan's most important traditional-culture bearers, Miyamoto Unosuke Co., has been instrument supplier to the emperor of Japan and others for nearly 150 years.

The group's members, Masato Baba, Kristofer Bergstrom, Shoji Kameda and Kelvin Underwood, are individually recognized as leading artists in their fields as teachers, workshop leaders, composers and performers. On Ensemble members have been featured in the music of the hit TV show "Heroes," in the David Mamet film "Redbelt" and performing with Stevie Wonder at the 2008 Democratic National Convention. As On Ensemble they combine their study and deep appreciation of tradition with equally formative experiences as DJs, electronic music producers, jazz drummers and rock bassists to create a repertoire of daring innovation.

On Ensemble has shared its unique music and outreach programs with audiences throughout the United States and Japan. After a debut concert in northern Japan and its first western-U.S. tour in 2002, the group received the Duane Ebata Memorial Fund Award, "in support and recognition of emerging artists of promise who are furthering the development of Asian Pacific American performing arts."

"...exciting, unique and captivating sound unlike any you have heard before." - Blogcritics Music

"...explosive drama, dazzling percussion, bristling electronics and World music themes... music to stir the blood and energize the soul." - New Age Reporter

For more about On Ensemble, visit <http://www.onensemble.org> Photos available for download at the Performing Arts Series website: <http://www.unr.edu/pas/media.html>

Individual tickets: Adult \$24/ Senior \$20/ Student \$12/ University student \$7

To purchase tickets (with a convenience fee), visit the Performing Arts Series website at <http://www.unr.edu/pas> . Tickets may also be purchased (without a convenience fee) in person at Lawlor Events Center Box Office, 1500 No. Virginia St., lower level, open weekdays from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; and at the Church Fine Arts box office one hour prior to performance.

Nightingale Concert Hall is located in the University's Church Fine Arts Building on North Virginia St. Parking is free after 6:30 p.m. in the Brian J. Whalen Parking Complex north of the Church Fine Arts Building. A convenient patron drop-off area is located just outside Nightingale Hall at the Virginia St. entrance.

For more information about the University's Performing Arts Series, call (775) 784-4046, email [pas@unr.edu](mailto:pas@unr.edu) , or visit <http://www.unr.edu/pas> . For additional performance, gallery and arts events at the University of Nevada, Reno, visit the arts365 Calendar website: <http://www.unr.edu/arts> . Email: [arts365@unr.edu](mailto:arts365@unr.edu) .

While the Performing Arts Series prides itself in bringing some of the finest performers in the world to the University of Nevada, Reno each season, occasionally an unforeseen occurrence calls for an artist to cancel a performance. If a cancellation requires us to schedule another performer, the series will always seek to substitute a comparable artist with similar credentials and performance standards within a related genre.

Funding for the Performing Arts Series is provided in part by the University of Nevada, Reno School of the Arts and Extended Studies; the Associated Students of the University of Nevada; the Nevada Arts Council, a state agency; National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, and the Recovery Act; the City of Reno Arts and Culture Commission; Western States Arts Federation; For the Love of Jazz; the Fulton Fund; and Sierra Arts. Accommodations for guest artists have been provided by the Sands Regency Casino Hotel.

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