



# **WELCOME**



Warren Miller once told me, "just because you move to a ski town doesn't mean you move away from the arts." In fact, he said, "I believe you will be able to create better work here than you could living in a half-bedroom apartment in Manhattan."

I look at any given week, or really any day here at WMPAC, and see that Warren was right. Whether it's with students on stage in the morning planning their next classroom theater assignment, or locals filling the space with innovative productions, or prepping for our next big spectacle, the work we are doing here at WMPAC is absolutely bursting with creativity.

If our last 10 years has taught us anything, it's that we will continue to grow alongside the community of Big Sky and southwest Montana. Big Sky will have grown in population again by then, so my great hope is that we have more locals on stage throughout more seasons of the year, and that we have an opportunity to build out more programming that continues to inspire and bring people together.

I remain inspired by Warren's words and his legacy. Let's be bold, and let's continue on our adventure together. Thank you for seeing a show in Big Sky, We're so glad you're here.

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-John Zirkle, Executive Director

Ten years is a lifetime. Ten years is also only the beginning. This year, the Warren Miller Performing Arts Center celebrates its first decade. A lot of our debut season back in 2012 and 2013 was about trying out new things, asking what a performing arts center should be in a mountain town, and honoring Warren Miller's legacy.

We still ask that question, especially after the ongoing challenges of the last couple years, but we have grown through the difficulties and come out the other side with a sharper understanding of how to best serve and inspire the people in our community. If anything, though, the humbling experience of these last couple years has made us hungrier than ever for adventurous thinkers and an authentic commitment to creative presentation.

Big Sky has become a bigger place than when we opened our doors ten years ago, Our mission is to bolster our community through the arts, and by the end of our first ten years, we will have put on over 300 shows, which include 1,500 professional touring artists and teachers and 5,000 local performers on our stage, serving a total audience of more than 70,000 patrons. And all of that happened in a town that only recently exceeded 3,000 full-time residents. Bravo to WMPAC for this remarkable achievement!

So, onto the next decade, I, for one, can't wait to see what else it holds.

- Loren Bough, Board Chair



HUNGRY MOOSE
Markel & Deli

BIG SKY MONTANA

WILSON

LONE MOUNTAIN

# WMPAC '23 SPONSORS

Judy Katany & Dan Taft

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Big Sky Resort Area District (Resort Tax) Big Sky Resort Jill & Loren Bough The Glore Family Fund

Kurt & Deborah Hilzinger Sandra & Richard (Jake) Jacobson Yellowstone Community Foundation **Moonlight Community Foundation** Kristin Kern & The Hungry Moose **Lone Mountain Land Company** The Wilson Hotel































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TAIKOPROJECT was founded in 2000 in Los Angeles, California by a group of young, emerging taiko drummers led by Bryan Yamami and Masato Baba. The group continues to define a modern American style of taiko, blending traditional forms with an innovative and fresh aesthetic.

TAIKOPROJECT first made waves when they became the first American taiko group to win the prestigious Tokyo International Taiko Contest in 2005, besting all of the Japanese taiko groups in the competition. That year, they were cast in the Mitsubishi Eclipse commercial, the first and still only national advertising campaign to prominently feature taiko.

Since then, the group has performed on the Academy Awards, the Grammy Awards, NBC's *The Voice, Syfy's Face/Off, The X-Factor,* rock band 30 Seconds to Mars *Up in the Air* music video, Conan, Jimmy Kimmel Live, the iHeartRadio Music Festival, and were honored with the prestigious Visionary Award from East West Players.

TAIKOPROJECT has performed and recorded with Stevie Wonder, Peter Gabriel, Hans Zimmer, Alicia Keys, John Legend, Squeak E. Clean, Sean Paul, Diplo, as well as international stars such as Greek singer Antonis Remos, Persian singer Mansour, Brazil's Olodum, and Netherlands' Tiesto. They have recently appeared on Ovation TV's *The Art Of* The Late Late Show with James Corden, and Food Network's Iron Chef Gauntlet.

TAIKOPROJECT has performed at many of the premiere performing arts centers in the country, including the Ordway Center (St. Paul, MN), Meany Hall (Seattle, WA), Mondavi Center (Davis, CA), Tower Theatre (Bend, OR), Hatfield Hall (Terre Haute, IN), Lied Center (Lincoln, NE), Gammage Auditorium (Phoenix, AZ), Ford Theatres (Hollywood, CA), Cache Valley Center (Logan, UT), Macey Center (Socorro, NM), and the Ferst Center (Atlanta, GA), just to name a few.





TAIKOPROJECT programs are made possible in part by funding from the National Endowment for the Arts, the California Arts Council, the Los Angeles County Department of Arts & Culture, the City of Los Angeles, Department of Cultural Affairs, the LA Arts Recovery Fund, the MAP Fund (Creative Capital), the Japan Foundation, the Sansei Legacy Fund, the Toyota Giving Circle, AAPIP (Asian American/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy), the James Irvine Foundation, the Union Bank Foundation, as well as our annual BaseBeat donors.

In 2021, the Ford Foundation, in association with the J. Paul Getty Trust and the California Community Foundation, recognized TAIKOPROJECT as one of "America's Cultural Treasures." In Summer 2021, the troupe recorded audio tracks for the Tokyo Olympics Opening Ceremony and in 2022 they were featured in Lisa Ling's HBOMax "Take Out" limited series and Paramount Plus/MTV's AAPI Heritage Month promotions.

Representation
General Inquiries, Community, Special, & Corporate Events
Contact us at taikoproject@gmail.com



300+ shows 5,000+
LOCAL
PERFORMERS
ON STAGE

1,500+
TOURING
ARTISTS

70,000+

PATRON EXPERIENCES





### WELCOME TO THE SECOND DECADE OF WMPAC

### WMPAC STAFF

John Zirkle - Executive Director, Artistic Director Cara Wilder - Director of Operations & Marketing Rikka Wommack - Communications Manager Ava King - Communications Associate Lexie Hendricks - Bookkeeper Jeremiah Slovarp - Technical Director

### ADVISORY BOARD

Loren Bough, Chair Doug Feurring David Gasser Rich Addicks Klaudia Kosiak Kristin Kern

Tallie Lancey John Zirkle, Ex-Officio

### **UPCOMING SHOW**

### MARCH 25



### JITRO CZECH GIRLS CHOIR

#### HEAVENLY VOICES

PRESENTED BY: SPANISH PEAKS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Jitro (pronounced YEE-tro), meaning "Daybreak" in Czech, is more than just a concert choir from Hradec Kralove, a town in the Czech Republic. It is an organization of 400 children in seven preparatory ensembles, of which only the best 25 or 30 qualify to tour. For 45 years they have been admired all over the world for their tonal brilliance, superb intonation, distinctive rich blend of sound and energetic vitality. Today, Jitro is considered one of the best children's choirs anywhere in the world.





## **TAIKOPROJECT**

**MARCH 16TH** 

PRESENTED BY: THE GLORE FAMILY FUND





**DEC 28-PAST SHOW SIERRA** HULL



JAN 7-PAST SHOW CHAD **DANIELS** Standup Comedy



JAN 21-PAST SHOW BROOKLYN RIDER & MAGOS HERRERA Classical Jazz Fusion



FEB 7-PAST SHOW INTERNATIONAL **GUITAR NIGHT** 



FEB 11-PAST SHOW NPR'S PLANET MONEY LIVE! The Economy Explained



FEB 25-PAST SHOW **MEMPHIS** JOOKIN': **THE SHOW Exhilarating Street Dance** 



MAR 5-PAST SHOW **THREE MUSKETEERS Swashbuckling Theater** 



MAR 11-PAST SHOW JAMES SEWELL BALLET & THE **AHN TRIO Dvnamic & Innovative** 



MAR 16 **TAIKOPROJECT Powerful Drumming** 



MAR 25 JITRO CZECH GIRLS CHOIR **Heavenly Voices** 



















