

Media Release
Thursday 12 November 2009

VIRTUOSOS ABOUND IN A MUSICAL CLASH OF THE TITANS

Brisbane Powerhouse and Topology present

Topology, TaikOz and Karak: Sound On Sound

At a time when bang for your buck is at the forefront of people's minds, you can't get much better than *Sound on Sound*. Three of Australia's premier musical groups, **TaikOz**, **Topology** and **Karak**, come together for only three mind-blowing and energetic performances of this show at Brisbane Powerhouse from **Friday 20 – Saturday 21 November**.

TaikOz, Topology and Karak share the desire to push boundaries and enthral audiences. *Sound on Sound* features new work composed by members of each ensemble as well as a world premiere by renowned WA composer David Pye.

With ancient practice at its core, TaikOz combines tradition with the latest Australian and Japanese compositions. The visceral power of the Japanese Taiko combines with the ethereal tones of Riley Lee's bamboo shakuhachi to create a powerful soundscape that blends Eastern, Western, old and new traditions.

Karak's Kevin Man and Kerryn Joyce are also members of TaikOz. As Karak, they embrace the full gamut of percussion – marimba, vibraphone, drums, cajons and much more, drawing from West-African, South Indian, Japanese and Western cultures.

Topology is Artist-in-Residence at Brisbane Powerhouse and recognised as one of Australia's leading new music groups. Their instrumentation is distinctive and highly flexible, allowing a wide range of possibilities and stylistic approaches, particularly when extended by Topology's ever-growing expertise in composition and collaboration.

High-energy action, pounding rhythms, full-blooded sound and the power of the beat are ready and waiting for you to witness as this shared passion for music takes over the Powerhouse Theatre from Fri 20 - Sat 21 November.

Tickets available through **Box Office** on **07 3358 8600** or online at brisbanepowerhouse.org

-ENDS-

Date	Fri 20 – Sat 21 November
Time	Fri 7.30pm, Sat 2pm & 7.30pm
Venue	Powerhouse Theatre, Brisbane Powerhouse
Tickets	Full \$36, Concession \$29, S/Galleries \$27
Bookings	07 3358 8600 or brisbanepowerhouse.org

**For further information, images and interview opportunities please contact
Brisbane Powerhouse Publicist, Rachael Morgan
p 07 3358 8670 m 0404 775 377 f 07 3358 8611 e rachaelm@brisbanepowerhouse.org**

TaikOz

With ancient practice at its core, TaikOz combines tradition with the latest contemporary compositions. Combining the visceral power of the taiko with the ethereal sound of Riley Lee's bamboo shakuhachi, TaikOz is exploring a synthesis of East and West, old and new. Established in 1997, TaikOz has grown into an ensemble comprising eight musicians who undertake a year-round schedule of performances, workshops and teaching. The group regularly tours throughout Australia collaborating with artists and organisations such as the Melbourne and Sydney Symphony Orchestras, acclaimed choreographer Meryl Tankard, taiko great Eitetsu Hayashi and chamber music presenter Musica Viva.

TaikOz has established a unique performance aesthetic that reflects the group's passionate dedication to the forms of Wadaiko and a desire to create new music for today's audiences. TaikOz has developed its own sound by drawing upon the input of its members, whose musical backgrounds range from years of study and performance in Japanese traditional music, symphonic music, jazz and pop, as well as esteemed colleagues and teachers in Japan such as Eitetsu Hayashi, Fuun no Kai, past members of Sado-Ondekoza, and composer friends and artists, Meryl Tankard, Regis Lansac, Gerard Brophy, Timothy Constable and Andrea Molino.

Through the collective power of these diverse, but sympathetic, creative spirits, TaikOz has been able to forge a style all its own that reflects the members' high energy, commitment and joy in making music. Recent highlights include appearances at Tokyo's National Theatre of Japan with Eitetsu Hayashi and Fuun no Kai after an invitation to present an all-Australian program of taiko music. This followed a month-long tour of Australia with Eitetsu and Fuun no Kai in 2006 marking the 30th Anniversary of the Japan-Australia Friendship Agreement.

World Premieres include a two-week sell-out season of TaikOz's collaboration with acclaimed choreographer Meryl Tankard entitled *Kaidan: A Ghost Story* - a fusion of dance, music and theatre; *Winners* by Andrea Molino at the 2006 Brisbane Festival and at Paris's Pompidou Centre; and *The Book Of Clouds* by Gerard Brophy, commissioned by the Melbourne Symphony for Riley Lee, TaikOz and Synergy.

TaikOz has also long championed the complete taiko works of composer Maki Ishii, including numerous performance seasons of *Monoprism for Wadaiko and Orchestra*, with the Sydney, Melbourne, West Australia and Queensland Orchestras and conductors Hiroyuki Iwaki and Takuo Yuasa.

TaikOz regularly tours and plays in the nation's finest concert halls for Musica Viva and recently undertook a 3-month tour of regional Australia. Awards include the Sidney Myer Performing Arts Award in recognition of TaikOz's commitment to Australian music, the 2007 Limelight „Best New Composition Award“ for *Kaidan*, and the 2005 Drover Award for regional touring and education.

Ian Cleworth – TaikOz

Ian has been Artistic Director of TaikOz since its inception in 1997. In 2005 he became full-time with the group after having spent 20 years as Principal Percussionist with the Sydney Symphony and 16 years with the percussion group Synergy. At age 19, Ian began taiko study with Amano Sen of Yamanashi-ken and performed throughout Honshu and Shikoku with his taiko ensemble, Araham.

Since then he has undertaken study and performance with Japan's greatest taiko soloist, Eitetsu Hayashi. TaikOz has an ongoing collaboration with Eitetsu since presenting the opening concert for the 2000 Sydney Festival and a year later, at *Kaikyousai*, Kobe, which marked the group's debut in Japan.

In 2004 Ian was invited to the Tokyo Summer Festival for a performance of Maki Ishii's *Monochrome* as a guest member of Eitetsu Fuun-no-Kai. With the Sydney Symphony Ian played under such conducting greats as Lorin Maazel, Charles Dutoit, Edo de Waart and Vladimir Ashkenazy, and has played in some of the world's finest concert halls, including Carnegie Hall, Boston Symphony Hall, Amsterdam's Concertgebouw and London's Royal Albert Hall.

As a soloist Ian premiered and recorded Ross Edwards' *Yarrageh: Nocturne for Percussion and Orchestra* and with his Synergy colleagues, Toru Takemitsu's *From Me Flows What You Call Time*. During his years with Synergy Ian was involved with the presentation of the latest works for percussion, including numerous premieres of Australian and international composers. With Synergy he toured Australia, the UK, Hungary, Sweden, Taiwan, Japan, Poland, Germany and Singapore and worked with some of the world's finest musicians, including Fritz Hauser, Trilok Gurtu, Mike Nock, Hosam Ramzy, Omar Faruk Tekbilek, Kazue Sawai, Palle Mikkelborg and Dave Samuels.

Ian was Co-Artistic Director from 2000 until 2003. In 2007 Ian received the APRA-AMC Classical Music Award for "Long-term Contribution For The Advancement Of Australian Music".

Topology

Topology is one of Australia's leading music groups. Their energetic, full-blooded sound continues to invigorate and reward participants with exceptional experiences. Topology has built a solid audience, and regularly performs to sold-out houses around Australia and the group's concerts and recordings are also broadcast internationally and on Australian radio.

Topology are the winners of the 2009 Classical Music Award for Outstanding Contribution by an Organisation for the 2008 Brisbane Powerhouse Series.

As artists-in-residence at the Brisbane Powerhouse, Topology has performed sold-out shows with the likes of Kate Miller-Heidke, The Kransky Sisters, Katie Noonan, drummer Grant Collins, percussion duo Karak and presents many original hand-crafted shows of its own. Original compositions sit alongside stunning arrangements of the gorgeously evocative music from Australian and international composers. Through their evolving repertoire, the band performs in a wide range of venues from the Gallery of Modern Art; to The Sydney Theatre Co, playing for *The Marriage of Figaro*, directed by Neil Armfield and starring Geoffrey Rush; to composing and collaborating with for the Queensland Ballet. Topology also continues to work with many international composers, including Canadian, Tim Brady; Andrew Poppy, Michael Nyman, Jeremy Peyton Jones from the United Kingdom; William Duckworth, Terry Riley, Steve Reich, Philip Glass, Carl Stone, Paul Dresher from the United States; and with many Australian composers. As well as producing new shows which they tour nationally each year, Topology has been engaged by many festivals and organisations, including the Olympics Arts Festival, Brisbane Festival, Sydney Spring Festival, Brisbane and Queensland Biennials, Queensland Symphony Orchestra, Musical Asylum and Brisbane International Film Festival. Topology performed a new commission for the Queensland Music Festival in 2009 and look forward to performing at the International Society for Contemporary Music World Music Days Festival in 2010. The band has toured Canada and Indonesia. Plans are afoot to visit Indonesia in 2010 and tour the UK and Europe in 2011. John Babbage (saxophone), Kylie Davidson (piano), Christa Powell (violin), Robert Davidson (bass) and Bernard Hoey (viola).

Robert Davidson – Topology

Robert Davidson is currently a lecturer in Composition at the University of Queensland. Davidson studied composition with Terry Riley in California and New York, and completed a PhD in composition at the University of Queensland. He previously studied South Indian vocal music in Kerala, India. He was a bassist in the Australian Opera, Sydney Symphony, and Queensland Symphony orchestras before working as a freelance computer programmer. Davidson formed Topology with its four other principals in 1996 and has played at numerous festivals and venues around the world. Davidson's compositions are regularly performed, recorded and broadcast around the world. All of Australia's professional orchestras and many leading soloists and ensembles have commissioned and performed his works. Robert is currently undertaking research into the deep links between language and music. He has composed many works around this theme, including voice portraits using recordings of figures including Ghandi, Churchill, Clinton, Whitlam, JFK, Amelia Earhardt and many others.

Karak Percussion

Karak percussion is one of Australia's most virtuosic and versatile percussion duos. Since its debut in 2001, Karak percussion has collaborated with musicians, composers, artists and dancers to create unique musical experiences. Some of these collaborations have included working with Riley Lee, Australia's Grand Master of the shakuhachi, contemporary music group Topology, the Queensland Ballet and the Brisbane Sinfonia. From 2001-2005 Karak percussion presented regular concerts in Brisbane as well as touring throughout north-east Queensland. Karak has also presented concerts and workshops in Melbourne, Canberra, Sydney and Perth. Since moving to Sydney, Karak has been involved in a variety of projects including Musica Viva's Ménage and Coffee Concert series, as well as making their Huntington Music Festival debut in 2006, with subsequent return performances in 2007.

The duo has commissioned new works for percussion duo from composers including Robert Davidson (Topology), Alan Lawrence, Jessica Wells, Michael Dixon, David Pye (Nova Ensemble) as well as performing their own compositions. In 2007 they were privately commissioned to create a new work, which was premiered in 2008 for their production "Movement in Time". Karak percussion has recorded three CD's to date, with the album *ozmosis* focusing on documenting and developing Australian percussion duo repertoire. Australian percussion print music specialist, Rhythmscape Publishing, publishes their music.

Kevin Man – Karak & TaikOz

Kevin was a member of the percussion section of The Queensland Orchestra from 1999-2003. In 2002 Kevin joined TaikOz, Australia's premiere Japanese drumming group. He is in high demand as a performer and also as a teacher, having taught at the Queensland Conservatorium, Queensland University of Technology and Sydney Conservatorium of Music where he was acting Chair of Percussion in 2005. Kevin freelances with other ensembles such as the Australian Brandenburg, Sydney Symphony, Australian Chamber Orchestra and Synergy Percussion. Kevin is Operations Coordinator for Synergy & TaikOz Ltd and is currently undertaking a Master of Music (Research) degree through the Sydney Conservatorium, majoring in shakuhachi (Japanese bamboo flute).

Kerryn Joyce – Karak & TaikOz

Kerryn co-founded the Musica Viva In Schools touring ensemble Doin' Time. Theatre involvement led to her working with Frank Theatre Productions and with the Queensland Ballet. Kerryn has taught at various institutions including the Young Conservatorium program at Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, Queensland University of Technology and the University of Queensland music education and music therapy departments. Kerryn joined TaikOz in 2002 and is involved with developing education in percussion as Education Co-ordinator for the Synergy & TaikOz Ltd company. Kerryn recently returned from a period of intensive study in Japan focusing on taiko, dance, and singing with one of Japan's leading taiko ensembles KODO.