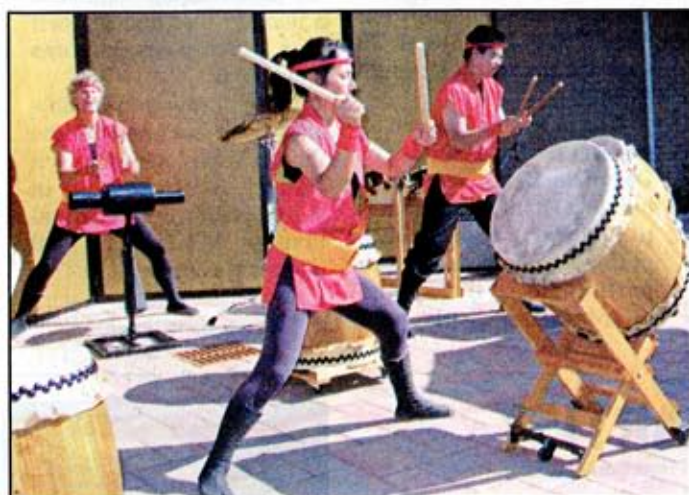


R PARTS & LEISURE

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Jennie Tezak/Register-Pajaronian file

Karen Groppi, (from left) Ikuyo Conant and CJ Avina perform a Taiko drum demonstration at the Natsu Matsuri Summer Festival in 2006.

Watsonville Taiko celebrates 20 years

Drumming groups to perform this weekend at Cabrillo College Crocker Theater

REGISTER-PAJARONIAN STAFF REPORT

Watsonville Taiko will host its 20th anniversary performance, "Valley of East and West," this weekend at the Cabrillo College Crocker Theater.

Taiko will partner with the Cabrillo Chorus, directed by Cheryl Anderson, to create a powerful, energetic sound. Shinsei Daiko, Watsonville Taiko's youth performing group, Shinsho-Mugen Daiko of Monterey and Sandoshin Taiko of Morgan Hill will also participate in the

performance.

Watsonville Taiko, a community for performers and supporters of Japanese drumming, was founded by Jim Hooker in September 1991. Ikuyo Conant, who has served as artistic director of the group since 1992, set the group's goal to explore Taiko in a form that combines drumming with folklore, mythology and symbolism and aims to keep tradition alive.

Shinsei Daiko focuses on wider cultural and aesthetic un-

derstanding of Japanese music, myth, folklore, dance and theater and integrate those elements into Taiko drumming. Members study musical skills as well as elements of martial art to understand the nature of Japanese drumming.

Shinsho-Mugen Daiko was founded in 1999 by Conant and focuses on a contemporary style of Taiko drumming with movements and an emphasis on personal harmony.

Sandoshin Taiko is a combination of drummers and martial

artists who have trained as a group for more than 10 years.

Performances will be held Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$18 for general admission and \$15 for seniors over 60 and children under 12 in advance; and \$20 for general admission or \$17 for seniors and children at the door. Tickets can be purchased by calling 435-4594 or visiting www.ticketguys.com.

For information, visit www.watsonvilletaiko.org.



Submitted

Iranian-American pianist Soheil Nasseri will perform Sunday at Cabrillo College.

Pianist's solo tour to stop at Cabrillo

REGISTER-PAJARONIAN STAFF REPORT

Iranian-American pianist Soheil Nasseri will perform classical music by well-known composers Sunday at the Cabrillo College Music Recital Hall.

The performance will begin with the premiere of a new 19-minute sonata by Iranian composer Hormoz Farhat, who wrote his Sonata No. 2 specifically for Nasseri.

Nasseri will perform Schumann's 2 Novelettes from Op. 21, Nos. 1, 4 and 6; Chopin's Fantasy in F Minor, Op. 49; and Beethoven's "Hammerklavier."

Nasseri has been playing the piano since he was 5. When he was 20, he moved to New York to study with Austrian pianist Karl Ulrich Schnabel. After Schnabel's death, Nasseri became a protegee of Jerome

Lowenthal, an American pianist and professor at Juilliard School. Lowenthal continues to be Nasseri's mentor.

Since 2001, Nasseri has performed 20 solo recital programs around the world without repeating a single piece. He has performed in some of the most prestigious concert halls such as the Metropolitan Opera House in New York, London's Purcell Room, Tokyo's Musashino Center and Carnegie Hall.

Nasseri has also performed at more than 60 public schools as part of an inner-city public school music education program.

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The performance will take place at 3 p.m. For tickets, call 656-9507 or visit ticketguys.com or distinguished-artists.org.