

NGO Nakatani Gong Orchestra

Information to the Presenter

NGO is a non-traditional music orchestra, directed by Tatsuya Nakatani, an acoustic sound artist and percussionist. Originally from Japan, he has been residing in the USA for 19 years. He is now based in Easton, PA and New York city.

His original idea of NGO was create a rich harmony of multiple gongs, by sharing simple techniques to players and audiences. For each show, he gives specialized training to locally selected gong players. Each player is able to quickly learn about the gong instruments, playing techniques and sign conducting from the conductor Tatsuya Nakatani. This is an ongoing, successful growing project and the only bowing based Gong orchestra exist in the world. The Gong sound is simply magic to anyone. NGO has performed over 60 shows all over the USA and Mexico since April 2011. Each performance has inspired spirit of all attendees. Many audience members say "I have never experienced this before", in addition they describe having pure cleansing feeling after the event.

(This project is not a gong show or gong bath or for spiritual ceremonial purposes)

- Other benefit of NGO

NGO inspires cross artistic community collaborations.

(see the requirements of mixture of **11 crew member**)

- NGO is a Touring Project

Nakatani will show up with his van full of instruments. He will train local participants, to be concert ready for the evening. No instrument preparation are needed locally. All parts and gear are self built by Nakatani or specially selected from a dealer.

- NGO establishment

2002 Nakatani slowly started to imagine this project in his head.

2011 NGO started on the road coast to coast in the USA, (50 shows by 7/2013)

2012 LP released by Taiga Records in Minneapolis.

2012 The John F Kennedy Center for performing arts Washington DC

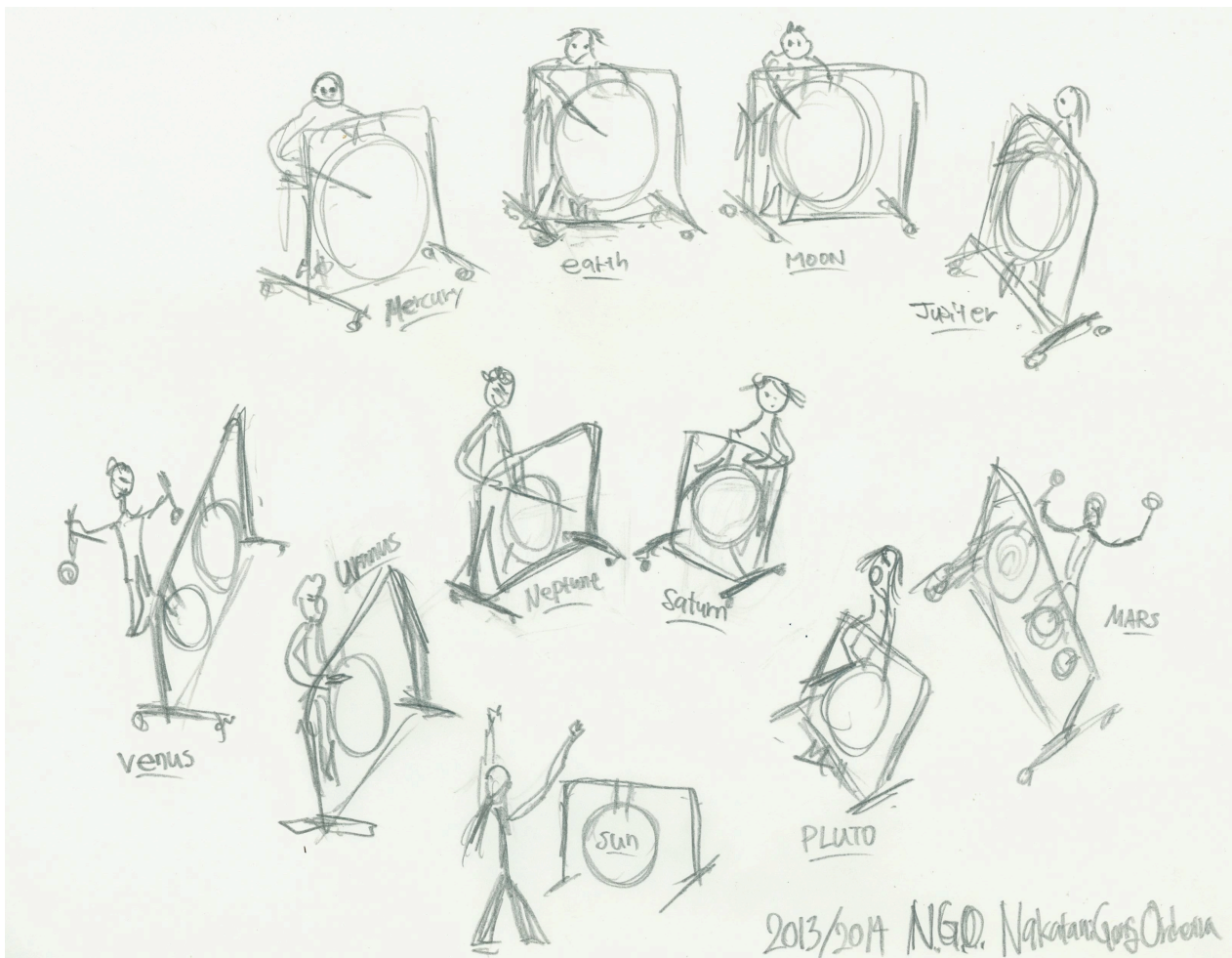
2012/2013 Bemis center for contemporary art, Omaha NE

2013 Tigertail Productions present at Miami Dade County Auditorium.

2013 Upgrading more Gongs and equipments

2014 Two days New York city show at JACK

2014 USA/Mexico tour including MOCA Cleveland



Set up for 2013 version NGO

Appropriate Venue:

A NICE ACOUSTIC+QUIET ENVIRONMENT is important for NGO.
 Wood floor is nice. Good acoustic sound for contraBass usually works well.
 (Not at bar, party situation or place where the audience is frequent in/out during show)

Stage area required about **8 to 10 Marimba-sized** space. (16X25feet)
 Small to mid size venue is better than huge space.
 Smaller space gives a greater feeling of a filled up Gong sound.
 The reflection walls behind ensemble helps for Big spaces, like concert halls.

If PA system needed for performance, Nakatani suggest capturing by all high quality condenser microphones and high quality speaker system.
 Monitor on the stage may not be needed.

Gong sounds are extremely sensitive and fragile. After hearing Gong Orchestra sound for a while, we will start to recognize space environment sound (AC vent or dim lighting) more than usual.

No Ear plugs are needed.

Crew (Gong player) Requirements:

*** Mixture of total 11 Crew member needed:**

- 8 Musicians (least 2 strings player who has bow experience and any instrumentalist)
- 3 Non Musicians (dancer, visual artist or art oriented people, no personal instruments or prior musical skills are necessarily required)

- * wheel chair is possible
- * musicians for any instrumentalist.
- * there is a lot of BOWING, needs strength of holding bow for performance, especially for the large gongs

• Open to adults, over high school age, with basic communication skills and respect for this project and all other participants.

• Availability for the day of NGO performance

• Ability to take an N.G.O. Workshop(practice+rehearsal) before the show.
Crew must take this process and it's usually about 3 hours.

• Ability to help and follow direction, load-in/out instruments, packing and setting up.
Crew must help this process.

Crew will consist of a volunteer base. Unless otherwise specified.
Financial proceeds will go to Nakatani.

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Example of schedule for NGO performance day:

- ① ---- 3:30 PM or earlier, prep member(2 or 3 people) meet up at the venue
- ② ---- 3:30 Prep member load in equipment to the venue and Setting up
- ③ ---- 4:30 All 11 players meet and greet
- ④ ---- 4:45 Workshop start (Practice+Rehearsal, maximum 3 hours)
- ⑤ ---- 7:00 Open door
- ⑥ ---- 8:00 Performance SOLO percussion by Tatsuya (40min)
- ⑦ ---- Intermission set change
- ⑧ ---- 9PM Performance NGO (40Min)
- ⑨ ---- 10PM Break down setting, pack up instruments
- ⑩ ---- Load up equipment to the van

- ⑥and ⑧ can be switched in some situation.

- “VERY BUSY” NGO is a busy day.

There is a option for ④ (workshop) to be scheduled a day before or earlier day for depending on the venue situation.

- Nakatani prefers NGO to be the only event of the night, prefer to not having openings or bill-sharing unless beneficial for the event.

- Because of the long commitment of time for the volunteer crew, please consider providing food, drink, snacks and relaxation. Thank you!