



KODO

SAT, FEB 13
VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE

DUKE PERFORMANCES

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VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE

PROGRAM

Part 1

Soyogi

Yuichiro Funabashi
(b. 1990)

The Hunted
1994

Motofumi Yamaguch
(b. 1990)

Okiage Ondo, Miyake
Traditional, arranged by Kodo

Kirina's Theme
1994

Yamaguchi

Monochrome
1976

Maki Ishii
(b. 1990)

Part 2

Yukishiro
2018

Ryotaro Leo Ikenaga
(b. 1990)

Uchoten
2019

Yuki Hirata

Hitotsu
Composed By Yasukazu Kano, 1992

O-Daiko
Traditional, Arranged By Kodo

Yatai-Bayashi
Traditional, Arranged By Kodo

PROGRAM NOTES

Text: Original Japanese by Kyoto Art Theater Shunjuza,
translated by Melanie Taylor

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1. Soyogi

Emerging from glimmering lights, the resonant tones of taiko drums and dragon flutes herald the beginning of “Legacy.” Soyogi means sacredness and self-renunciation. The voices of all fifteen performers layer to purify the arena as the performance starts to unfold.

2. The Hunted

This is the eponymous track from the 1994 motion picture featuring Christopher Lambert, Yoshio Harada, and Yoko Shimada, for which Kodo performed the entire soundtrack. Composer Motofumi Yamaguchi toured with this programme throughout 2019 in Japan, elevating this piece to new heights of perfection. The deep bass beat and sound of Noh flutes blend to conjure the intense atmosphere of the original film.

3. Okiage Ondo—Miyake

Acapella voices resonate with astounding depth in Okiage Ondo, an arrangement of a traditional song — Nishinba Ondo from Shakotan, Hokkaido — which folk singer Takio Ito taught the Kodo ensemble. The vocals lead into Miyake, Kodo’s arrangement of Miyake-jima Kamitsuki Mikoshi Daiko — a traditional festival piece that hails from Tokyo’s Miyake Island. This style of drumming is truly distinct: the drummers beat the taiko side-on from a very low stance. Many young people set their sights on joining Kodo after watching this powerful display of art and athleticism.

4. KIRINA’s Theme

The beautiful melody of the shinobue — transverse bamboo flute — sets the scene in “The Hunted” where melancholic Kirina makes her entrance. This new arrangement featuring a harp from the Amami Islands was created especially for this programme.

5. Monochrome

Composer Maki Ishii was inspired during a visit to Sado Island to compose this masterpiece for Japanese drums in 1976. He went on to teach Kodo how to play his intricate work. Monochrome is one of the signature pieces Kodo has honed through decades of performances. With seven shime-daiko (roped drums), the performers will take you on an incredible exploration of sound—from pianissimo whispers to a thunderous roar bound to shake the whole auditorium.

6. Yukishiro

This melodic piece evokes the relaxed feel of a journey somewhere in Asia by combining three shinobue (transverse bamboo flutes) with the resonant tones of the bonang—a small gong-like instrument used in the Javanese gamelan.

7. Uchoten

Uchoten means rapture or euphoria. Composed by newcomer Yuki Hirata, this feel-good piece features six performers playing taiko carried on shoulder straps. Combining a 1950–60s Ska base with Japanese rhythm and Kodo's unique groove, it brings the fresh faces and energy of the ensemble's next generation to the forefront.

8. HITOTSU

The performance takes a dramatic turn into a realm cloaked in darkness. The haunting tones of shawm-like suonas, Tibetan horns, Chinese cymbals, and gongs meld with taiko and voices to evoke a sacred scene where Eiichi Saito depicts the “Prince of Lanling” with a dance based on a 1200-year-old court dance.

9. O-daiko

O-daiko means large drum. At around 120cm in diameter, it tests the mind, body, and endurance of anyone who attempts to elicit its deeply resonant sound. Carved from a single tree trunk, hollowed out and covered with cow hides, this traditional instrument embodies the life force

of nature. It is crafted and played with feelings of gratitude and reverence for the natural world. Experience the reverberations with your whole being as the drummers give it their all to become one with the mighty drum.

10. Yatai-bayashi

Every winter in Chichibu, Saitama Prefecture, an all-night festival is held featuring richly decorated two-storey yatai (carts) that large troupes of locals pull along the city streets. The people hauling the yatai are kept in time and urged on by the powerful beating of the taiko, concealed in the cramped first storey of the carts. This gave rise to a technique of drumming while seated. Kodo's Yatai-bayashi serves as a splendid finale to today's programme, bringing the energy and joy of a Japanese festival to the stage.

Performers

Yuichiro Funabashi
(Ensemble Leader)

Yoshikazu Fujimoto

Chieko Kojima

Yoko Fujimoto

Motofumi

Yamaguchi

Eiichi Saito

Tomohiro Mitome

Masami Miyazaki

Yoshie Abe

Mitsuru Ishizuka

Kenta Nakagome

Shogo Komatsuzaki

Yuta Sumiyoshi

Jun Jidai

Koki Miura

Ryoma Tsurumi

Ryotaro Leo Ikenaga

Reo Kitabayashi

Tomoe Miura

Mizuki Yoneyama

Issei Kohira

Masayasu Maeda

Kodai Yoshida

Yuta Kimura

Seita Saegusa

Yuki Hirata

Chie Yamawaki

Chihiro Watanabe

Taiyo Onoda

Shun Takuma

Kei Sadanari

Sho Nakatani

Moe Niiyama

Jumpei Nonaka

Staff

Artistic Director: Yuichiro Funabashi

Music Advisor: Tatsuya Shimono

Voice Instructor: Yumi Nogami

Posture & Movement Instructor: Tatsuo Kudo

Ryuteki Instructor: Mami Tsunoda

Dance Instructor: Yoshiyuki Izaki

Makeup Instructor: Kouichi Fujisaki

Assistant Director: Ryotaro Leo Ikenaga

Lighting Designer: Kenichi Mashiko (S.L.S.)

Technical Director: Martin Lechner

Photographer: Takashi Okamoto

Promotional Video Director: Sokichi Sogawa

Promotional Artwork: Hiroomi Hattori (COM Works)

Special Thanks: Katsufumi Ichiyanagi (Sazanamikai), Ranjo,

Yasukazu Kano, Yasuko Honma

Cooperation: Kodo Cultural Foundation

Planning & Production Company: Kitamaesen Co., Ltd.



Alsarah talking to students at Durham School of the Arts.

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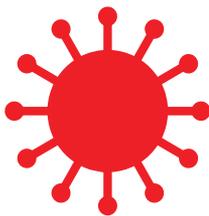
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