KODO

SAT, FEB 13
VIRTUAL PERFORMANCE
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PROGRAM

Part 1

Soyogi
Yuichiro Funabashi
(b. 1990)

The Hunted
1994
Motofumi Yamaguchi
(b. 1990)

Okiage Ondo, Miyake
Traditional, arranged by Kodo

Kirina's Theme
1994

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
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.
Last season, Duke Performances held over 100 residency events with visiting artists, reaching over 2,000 Duke students and 2,000 members of the Durham community through class visits, public conversations, master classes, workshops, and pop-up concerts, as well as K-12 engagement with Durham Public Schools.

For 2020/21, this work continues in virtual form, through free online series such as ‘In Conversation’ and special engagements for students and teachers throughout the district.

We bring diverse and virtuosic artists to classrooms and public forums in ways that enrich our vibrant campus and community and foster conversation around the themes, traditions, and perspectives embodied in the work of these visiting artists.

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