



Saturday, February 2, 2019, 8pm

Sunday, February 3, 2019, 3pm

Zellerbach Hall



Kodo

One Earth Tour: *Evolution*

Tamasaburo Bando, *artistic director*

Performers

Mitsuru Ishizuka, Kenta Nakagome, Eri Uchida,
Yuta Sumiyoshi, Jun Jidai, Ryoma Tsurumi,
Kengo Watanabe, Ryotaro Leo Ikenaga,
Hayato Otsuka, Tomoe Miura, Mizuki Yoneyama,
Issei Kohira, Yuta Kimura, Yuki Hirata,
Chihiro Watanabe, Taiyo Onoda

Martin Lechner, *technical director*

Kenichi Mashiko (S.L.S.), *lighting designer*

Kazuki Imagai, *stage manager*

Kentaro Shino, *assistant stage manager*

Yui Kawamoto, *production manager*

Koji Miyagi, Shingo Kawamura, and Ami Akimoto, *tour managers*

Kodo thanks ANA for its support of the Kodo One Earth Tour 2019: Evolution North America Tour.

Cal Performances' 2018–19 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

PROGRAM

Kei Kei

Composed by Yuta Sumiyoshi, 2012

Phobos

Composed by Kenta Nakagome, 2009

Mute

Composed by Yosuke Oda, 2013

Kusawake

Composed by Yuta Sumiyoshi, 2013

O-daiko

(Kenta Nakagome, Hayato Otsuka)
Traditional, arranged by Kodo

Monochrome

Composed by Maki Ishii, 1977

INTERMISSION

Color

Composed by Tamasaburo Bando & Masayuki Sakamoto, 2009

Ake no Myojo

Composed by Yosuke Oda, 2012

Yuyami

Composed by Yuta Sumiyoshi, 2013

Ayaori

Composed by Yuta Sumiyoshi, 2016

Rasen

Composed by Tamasaburo Bando, 2016

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Directed by Tamasaburo Bando, *Evolution* marks the 35th anniversary of the internationally acclaimed *taiko* performing arts ensemble Kodo. This new production is a culmination of Kodo's ever-evolving artistic voyage, which boldly displays the future of *taiko* on stage. For decades, Kodo has led the genre of *taiko* performance with dedication and innovation. With *Evolution*, Kodo promises to drive its next generation to new heights of creative expression.

Tamasaburo Bando has crafted a program that places Kodo's best-known work alongside some of the latest core repertoire. Signature pieces like *O-daiko* and *Monochrome*, which have been synonymous with Kodo since the days of its antecedent group, are now integrated among more recent work such as *Kusa-wake* and *Color*. This combination of classic and current is complemented by new compositions that have been created especially for this production. *Ayaori* is intricate and uplifting, while the climactic *Rasen (Spiral)* features motifs of an array of Kodo pieces from various eras of the ensemble's history. The result is a rousing whirl of energy that carries the audience into a new dimension of *taiko* performance.

From the Artistic Director

This time, I've created a work called *Evolution*, which will tour through Japan and around the world. We introduced this program, created to commemorate the 35th year since the founding of Kodo, in August 2016, on the second night of a three-night visit to Tokyo's Suntory Hall.

The inspiration for this program is the belief that the variety of works that have accumulated over our history could combine with new works that Kodo is performing now, creating a spiral advancing into the future.

I created some new works for this production, including the fun of *Monochrome* at the end of the first act, and *Color* at the beginning of the second act. *Spiral* and *Ayaori* will be performed for the first time in North America. We also added a fresh atmosphere surrounding the very large drums.

Kodo is evolving as it moves in a spiral from past into the future. I hope that our efforts will be appreciated, and I look forward to your presence at our performances. Enjoy!

—Tamasaburo Bando

Tamasaburo Bando is a leading Kabuki actor, and the most popular and celebrated *onnagata* (an actor specializing in female roles) currently on stage. He has demonstrated his profound aesthetic across numerous platforms, receiving the highest acclaim for his many artistic endeavors. Bando accepted the invitation to become Kodo's artistic director in 2012. In September of that year, he was recognized as an Important Intangible Cultural Property Holder ("Living National Treasure") and in 2013 he was decorated with France's highest honor, the Order of Arts and Letters, Commander.

Kodo

Exploring the limitless possibilities of the traditional Japanese drum, the *taiko*, Kodo is forging new directions for a vibrant living art form. In Japanese the word "Kodo" conveys two meanings: Firstly, "heartbeat," the primal source of all rhythm. The sound of the great *taiko* is said to resemble a mother's heartbeat as felt in the womb, and it is no myth that babies are often lulled asleep by its thunderous vibrations. Secondly, read in a different way, the word can mean "children of the drum," a reflection of Kodo's desire to play the drums simply, with the heart of a child. Since the group's debut at the Berlin Festival in 1981, Kodo has given over 6,000 performances in 50 countries worldwide under the banner "One Earth Tour," spending about a third of the year overseas, a third touring in Japan, and a third rehearsing and preparing new material on Sado Island.

Kodo strives to both preserve and reinterpret traditional Japanese performing arts. Beyond this, members on tours and research trips all over the globe have brought back to Sado a kaleidoscope of world music and experiences that now exerts a strong influence on the

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

group's performances and compositions. Collaborations with other artists extend right across the musical spectrum and Kodo's lack of preconceptions about its music continues to produce startling new fusions and forms.

Kodo's Home of Sado Island

Since 1971 Sado Island has been Kodo's home and the platform from which the group reaches out to the world. With nature's warm embrace evident in each of her four seasons, Sado is an extraordinary place where traditional ways of life and the island's indigenous performing arts still thrive today. The island is a fountain of inspiration for Kodo and the guiding force behind the group's creative lifestyle. The artists' goal is to find a harmonious balance between people and the natural world. Each time Kodo ventures off the island, the ensemble encounters new people, customs, and traditional performing arts that are ingrained in the lifestyles of each locale. Both similarities and differences prompt Kodo members to pause and reflect upon the importance of the varied and rich cultures that color our world. These life lessons permeate each performer's experience and become an invisible source of their expression. It is through this process of living, learning, and creating that Kodo cultivates a unique aesthetic and sensitivity, reaching out toward a new world culture rooted in the rich possibilities of a peaceful coexistence between humanity and nature.

Kodo Cultural Foundation

Thanks to the support of many friends, the Kodo Cultural Foundation was established in 1997 in order to increase Kodo's capacity for outreach projects on Sado Island. Its primary mission is to carry out nonprofit activities focused on social education and the notion of giving back to the local community. The Kodo Cultural Foundation is committed to the cultural and environmental preservation of Sado Island and oversees many ambitious projects. From the conservation of local habitats to the revitalization of rare craft traditions and Noh

theaters throughout Sado Island, the highly collaborative Kodo Cultural Foundation supports many vital initiatives. Its activities include holding workshops, planning the annual Earth Celebration, creating a research library, managing the Kodo Apprentice Center and the Sado Island Taiko Centre, and carrying out research in the performing arts.

Kodo Apprentice Center

In a converted schoolhouse in Kakinoura on Sado Island, the young people who will continue and expand on Kodo's traditions are trained, not just in musical technique but also in all matters of body and spirit. Beginning in April, apprentices live communally and train for two years. From this group, probationary members are selected in January of the second year. These chosen few spend one year as junior members, and if they are successful, they then become full Kodo members. Kodo seeks people of all backgrounds who are interested in becoming apprentices, as well as the next generation of Kodo players and staff. Apprentices live communally in the Kodo Apprentice Center, where they learn *taiko*, dance, song, and other traditional arts.

IMG Artists (imgartists.com), *international tour management*
Rebecca Davis PR (rebeccadavispr.com),
publicity

For any inquiries, please contact Kodo at:

Kodo Village
148-1 Ogi Kanetashinden
Sado, Niigata 952-0611, Japan
Tel. +81.259.86.3630 Fax. +81.259.86.3631

heartbeat@kodo.or.jp
<http://www.kodo.or.jp/>
Facebook: @KodoHeartbeat
Twitter: @KodoHeartbeatEn
Instagram: @KodoHeartbeat