

Brooklyn Academy of Music

Adam E. Max,
Chairman of the Board

William I. Campbell,
Vice Chairman of the Board

Katy Clark,
President

Joseph V. Melillo,
Executive Producer

Dadan 2017

Kodo
Directed by Tamasaburo Bando

BAM Howard Gilman Opera House
Mar 1—4 at 7:30pm;

Running time: approx. two hours, including intermission

Season Sponsor:

**Bloomberg
Philanthropies**

*Support for the Signature Artist Series provided by
Howard Gilman Foundation.*

*Leadership support provided by
The Freeman Foundation.*



Masayuki Sakamoto



Yosuke Kusa



Yuta Sumiyoshi



Jun Jidai



Shunichiro Kamiya



Ryoma Tsurumi



Kengo Watanabe



Ryotaro Leo Ikenaga



Reo Kitabayashi



Hayato Otsuka



Issei Kohira



Masayasu Maeda



Koji Miyagi



Kodai Yoshida

A message from Tamasaburo Bando, *Dadan* Artistic Director

In order to create *Dadan*, I started rehearsals with the performers in the summer of 2007. At that time we had no idea that that we would create a piece like this. If a group of men who just wanted to strike the drums would gather and practice intensely, a performance would come out of that energy. So we told ourselves. As for the name of the piece, we didn't have any assurance that we could complete it in the future. But fortunately, in 2009 we were able to create this work called *Dadan*, and show it to the public. The word *Dadan* is written with the kanji characters 打男 that literally mean "men drumming," but at the same time we tried to come up with a name which would put across the sense of drumming when written in roman letters, would feel dynamic, and be easy for people around the world to say.

Dadan saw its world premiere in Tokyo during September 2009, and the success of this initial run led to its foreign debut at Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris, France, with four sold-out performances in 2012. Following such success abroad, *Dadan* toured across Japan in 2012 and was showcased twice at the "Earth Celebration" annual international performing arts festival on Sado Island. Tours in Spain and France followed during 2014, and then in October 2015, *Dadan* was performed in Hong Kong—a first in Asia outside of Japan. The South American debut took place in March of 2016 in Brazil.

The 2017 *Dadan* performances are part of its first North American tour, and are presented as a part of Kodo's 35th Anniversary celebrations.

For *Dadan*'s US tour, I would like to express my gratitude to the sponsors who made this possible. I hope to be able to continue to create even better performances in the future. I will be very happy if you enjoy our performance.

—Tamasaburo Bando





PART ONE

Toudoufuu	Composed by Tomohiro Mitome, 2009
Kaden	Composed by Tamasaburo Bando, 2012
Color	Composed by Masayuki Sakamoto, 2009
Biei	Composed by Tomohiro Mitome, 1999
Tomoe	Composed by Kodo, 2003
Ajara	Composed by Mitsuru Ishizuka, 2006

PART TWO

Phobos	Composed by Kenta Nakagome, 2009
Mute	Composed by Yosuke Oda, 2013
Kusawake	Composed by Yuta Sumiyoshi, 2013
Kei Kei	Composed by Yuta Sumiyoshi, 2012
Dan	Composed by Kodo, arranged by Tamasaburo Bando, 2014

PERFORMERS

Masayuki Sakamoto
Yosuke Kusa
Yuta Sumiyoshi
Jun Jidai
Shunichiro Kamiya
Ryoma Tsurum
Kengo Watanabe

Ryotaro Leo Ikenaga
Reo Kitabayashi
Hayato Otsuka
Issei Kohira
Masayasu Maeda
Koji Miyagi
Kodai Yoshida

STAFF

Artistic director **Tamasaburo Bando**
Technical director **Martin Lechner**
Lighting designer **Kenichi Mashiko** (S.L.S.)
Stage manager **Takeshi Arai**
Company manager **Yui Kawamoto**
Assistant company manager **Akiko Umegaki**
Assistant manager **Donnie Keeton**

FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT KODO AT:

Kitamaesen Co., Ltd. / Kodo
148-1 Ogi-kanetashinden
Sado, Niigata 952-0611 Japan
Tel. +81(0)259.86.3630
Fax. +81(0)259.86.3631
Email: heartbeat@kodo.or.jp
Website: kodo.or.jp

North American Management
IMG Artists
7 W 54th st.
New York, NY 10019
Phone: 212.994.3500 Fax: 212.994.3550
E-mail: artistsny@imgartists.com
Website: imgartists.com

About *Dadan* 2017

Simultaneously raw and refined, the performance piece *Dadan* features only Kodo's young male performers. Simply meaning “drumming men” in Japanese, *Dadan* was designed by Tamasaburo Bando, and is unique among Kodo performances in its absence of singing, dancing, flutes, and female performers.

Instead, this production uses taiko drums of all shapes and sizes, as well as other forms of percussion. This piece has continued to evolve on stage to this day, gaining new power and dynamism with each performance.

The climax of *Dadan* features a succession of compelling solos. With each new drummer's relentless and rhythmic pounding of the hirado o-daiko (big low drum), the reverberations build to soul-stirring heights. These solos then crescendo into a round of rousing ensemble pieces, completely immersing the audience in sound as they watch the taiko, and its musical possibilities, soar to new levels.

One could say that this performance tests the limits of a player's physical, technical, psychological, and spiritual abilities, all at the same time.

Kodo thanks ANA for their support of the *Dadan* 2017
USA Tour —Kodo 35th Anniversary Production—







TAMASABURO BANDO

Tamasaburo Bando is a leading Kabuki actor, and the most popular and celebrated onnagata (actor specializing in female roles) currently on stage. His profound aesthetic sense has been demonstrated across numerous platforms as he has received acclaim for his many artistic endeavors. His stage direction of productions such as *Romeo & Juliet* and *Kajin Besso* garnered accolades, while as a movie director he demonstrated his artistic prowess in the films *Gekashitsu*, *Yume no Onna*, and *Tenshu Monogatari*, which caused a splash in the art world. In 2012, Bando was invited to become the artistic director of the Kodo ensemble, a position that he held until 2016. In September 2012, he was recognized as an Important Intangible Cultural Property Holder (“Living National Treasure”) in Japan. In 2013 he was decorated with the highest honor of France’s 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. The vibrations created by the drummers not only reach the ears of the audience, they move listeners on a visceral level. In Japanese, the word “Kodo” holds a double meaning. It can be translated as “heartbeat,” the primal source of all rhythm. If read in a different context however, Kodo can also mean “children of the drum,” which reflects the group’s desire to play the drums with the simple heart of a child. Since the group’s debut at the Berlin Festival in 1981, Kodo has given around 5,800 performances in over 45 countries on five continents. This figure includes 3,900 performances under the “One Earth” banner, a theme that embodies Kodo’s desire to transcend language and cultural boundaries, all while reminding their audiences of the common bonds we all share as human beings. The ensemble also participates in a wide range of projects and events, which includes headlining major international festivals, contributing to motion picture soundtracks, and collaborating with a wide variety of global performing arts leaders.

TAMASABURO BANDO & KODO

The first Kodo performance directed by Tamasaburo Bando was held in 2003. Titled *Kodo One Earth Tour Special*, the production was crafted over the course of two years with Bando making five visits to Sado Island for rehearsals. The year 2006 marked the first on-stage collaboration between Bando and Kodo with *Amaterasu*, a musical dance play based on a famous Japanese myth. Featuring Bando as the sun goddess Amaterasu and Kodo as the gods of the story, this performance will be remembered as a catalyst for Kodo to break new ground in taiko expression. It has continued to receive high acclaim in its encore performances in 2007, and then in updated performances in 2013 and 2015.

Under Bando’s direction, five distinct *Kodo One Earth Tour* productions have been created to date. *Legend* (2012) and *Mystery* (2013, at BAM in 2015) both toured throughout Japan, North America, and Europe. The following two productions, *Eternity* (2014) and *Chaos* (2015), entirely new compositions, each presented a new and diverse set of challenges for the group, including unfamiliar instrumentation and a fusion within the ensemble. These two works toured exclusively throughout Japan. Then in August 2016, Bando’s fifth production as artistic director, *Spiral*, premiered as one of the three unique Kodo 35th Anniversary Commemorative Concerts at Suntory Hall in Tokyo, Japan.

The cutting-edge Bando and Kodo collaboration *Dadan* remains an ever-evolving production that boldly portrays the essence of drumming. First premiering in Japan in 2009, it made its foreign debut in Europe in 2012 and continues to deliver pulsating performances that have received acclaim to date across Japan, Spain, France, Hong Kong, and Brazil. In 2017, *Dadan* will make its North American debut with a two-month, multi-city tour that will be followed by summer performances in Europe.

