



JAPANFOUNDATION

**Performing Arts Japan 2017-2018
List of Awardees**

The Japan Foundation is pleased to announce grant awards totaling **USD161,500 and CAD34,000 to 13 organizations** in the United States and Canada through the PAJ Program for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The grant recipients are listed below. (Please contact the Japan Foundation, New York and Japan Foundation, Toronto for further information and finalized performance dates).

Touring Grant awards

Total projects: 8

Total funds allocated: USD90,950; CAD34,000

Grant amounts: USD6,800 – USD25,500

Arts Midwest (Minneapolis, MN) for a tour of Japanese taiko ensemble **OndeKOZA** to five Midwestern communities in the spring of 2018 as part of the first year of the 2017-2019 cycle of Arts Midwest Fest, the global touring performance and education program.

Tour Date: February 4 – March 10, 2018

Tour Locations: Sheldon Theatre (Red Wing, MN); Heritage Center, University of Dubuque (Dubuque, IA); Prairie du Chien High School (Prairie du Chien, WI); Riggs High Theater (Pierre, SD); Dorothy Stickney Auditorium, Dickinson State University (Dickinson, ND)

Blank Forms (Brooklyn, NY) for a tour of **Kazuki Tomokawa** and **Morio Agata**, two historic artists from the Japanese underground music scene, on a 4 city, 5 evening tour of the United States.

Tour Dates: TBD

Tour Locations: TBD

Fuse Box Austin (Austin, TX) for a four-city U.S. tour of Japanese choreographer **Kaori Seki** and her company **PUNCTUMUN**.

Tour Dates: April 1 – May 12, 2018

Tour Locations: Fusebox Festival (Austin, TX); Links Hall (Chicago, IL); TBD; Flynn Center for the Performing Arts (Burlington, VT)

IMJS: Japanese Cultural Heritage Initiatives (New York, NY) for a nine-city North America tour of *Shakuhachi and Ichigenkin: Discovery in a Single Tone*, a series of concerts and workshops for shakuhachi and ichigenkin (one-stringed koto).

Tour Dates: September 28 – October 21, 2017

Tour Locations: Leshomtz Recital Hall, Montclair State University (Montclair, NJ); Hartt School of Music, University of Hartford (Hartford, CT); Katonah High School and Katonah Public Library (Katonah, NY); University of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh, PA); University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (Colorado Springs, CO); Columbia University (New York, NY); University of Memphis (Memphis, TN); Belmont University (Nashville, TN); Middle Tennessee State University (Murfreesboro, TN)

MUTEK: International Festival of Digital Creativity and Electronic Music (Montreal, QC) for 30 minute dance performance involving 5 dancers, several projectors, lasers, motion and projection mapping, drones and robotics..

Tour Dates: TBD

Tour Locations: TBD

New Mexico Presenters Alliance (Socorro, NM) for a three-city tour of **TAIKOPROJECT ALL-STARS** in New Mexico including public performances, interactive workshops and school assemblies.

Tour Dates: September 27 – October 6, 2017

Tour Locations: Henderson Center, San Juan College (Farmington, NM); Western New Mexico University Theater (Silver City, NM); Macey Center, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (Socorro, NM)

Scottsdale Cultural Council (Scottsdale, AZ) for a two-city tour of *Enmei (Long Life)*, a collaboration by four dancers and artists ranging in age from 45-73 to explore the different ways our respective cultures value the body, age, and the aging process, itself.

Tour Dates: March 20-26, 2018

Tour Locations: Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts (Scottsdale, AZ); University of Oregon (Eugene, OR)

Society for the Activation of Social Space through Art and Sound (SASSAS) (Los Angeles, CA) for a five-city North America tour of two pioneering Japanese sound artists **Akio Suzuki** and **Aki Onda**.

Tour Dates: October, 2017

Tour Locations: Good Shepherd Center (Seattle, WA); The Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook (Los Angeles, CA); Crowley Theater (Marfa, TX); Pioneer Works (New York, NY); La Sala Rossa (Montreal, QC)

Collaboration Grant awards

Total projects: 5

Total funds allocated: USD70,550

Grant amounts: USD8,500 – USD29,750

ANIKAYA/Akhra, Inc. (Somerville, MA) for *Borders*, an intensive collaboration with ANIKAYA artistic director **Wendy Jehlen** and **Dakei Shizuku**, an accomplished deaf butoh artist based in Tokyo.

Project Period: Fall, 2017 – Spring, 2018

Baryshnikov Arts Center (New York, NY) for *Darkness Odyssey Part 2: I or Hallucination*, a series of dances developed by **Kota Yamazaki**, aims to harmoniously combine the dance, philosophy, and folklore around Goze music (or music of blind women) in order to reveal the unknown universe of the body and to portray interbeingness of different perspectives in unconventional way, through significantly different bodies of four accomplished dance artists.

Project Period: December, 2017

Dallas Black Dance Theatre (Dallas, TX) for a collaboration with Japanese choreographer **Takehiro Ueyama** and Dallas Black Dance Theatre to create a new work for its second professional performing company DBDT: Encore! During the organization's 41st season in 2017-2018.

Project Period: August, 2017 – May, 2018

La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club (New York, NY) for a collaboration between Japanese playwright/director **Takeshi Kawamura** and American playwright/director **John Jesurun**. Inspired by the traditional Japanese collaborative poetry style Renga, the two renowned artists will both write and direct a play in collaborative partnership.

Project Period: July, 2017 – June, 2018

Ripe Time (Brooklyn, NY) for *Sleep*, a new immersive physical theater work that traces the distance between what we appear to be and what we are, inspired by **Haruki Murakami's** shattering 1994 short story, Japanese Hannya myths and horror films.
Project Period: August, 2017 – March, 2018

PAJ Advisory Committee Members (as of December 2016)

- Mr. Ben Johnson (Program Manager, Center for the Art of Performance at UCLA)
- Ms. Sherrie Johnson (Executive Producer, Canadian Stage)
- Mr. Jordan Peimer (Executive Director, ArtPower! at UC San Diego)
- Ms. Sabrina Motley (Director, Smithsonian Folklife Festival)
- Ms. Sara Nash (Project Manager, National Dance Project)