

Kodo *Ubusuna*: On Tour This Month Only!

Joined by their common interest in performing arts, Yoshikazu Fujimoto, Chieko Kojima, Yoko Fujimoto, Motofumi Yamaguchi, and Eiichi Saito are the only remaining original stage members who gathered on Sado Island more than 25 years ago to lay the foundations for Kodo.

Through drumming, song and dance, these members have poured their hearts and souls into the group, leading Kodo to the forefront of ensemble taiko, both in Japan and throughout the world. This performance unites these veteran members as it showcases their distinctive talents cultivated over the years.

Ubusuna means *land of birth*. Created through work and nurtured in our daily lives, performing arts are an essential symbol of community. The bonds created through our lives on Sado and the connections to people met through traveling the globe have engendered a rich warehouse of performing arts that Kodo's founders have dedicated themselves to cultivating and refining. *Ubusuna* is a celebration of this incredible journey.

Kodo *Ubusuna* is touring in Japan March 7-30, 2010.

[Please visit our website for details](#)



Yoshikazu Fujimoto



Chieko Kojima



Yoko Fujimoto



Motofumi Yamaguchi



Eiichi Saito

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Kodo Ubusuna Cast

Yoshikazu Fujimoto
Chieko Kojima
Yoko Fujimoto
Motofumi Yamaguchi
Eiichi Saito
Takeshi Arai
Masaru Tsuji
Kenzo Abe
Shogo Yoshii
Tsuyoshi Maeda
Yosuke Kusa



“Yatai-Bayashi”, with famous centre-man Yoshikazu



Pure Kodo: Yoshikazu Fujimoto plays the big drum in “O-daiko”, in a sashiko-embroidered costume



The cast of Ubusuna enjoying the beat with the audience

Kodo Ubusuna Programme

Kodo Sanba
Nishimonai
Ibuki
Miyake
Kenbai
Kaigara-bushi
Hana Hachijo
Itoshiki-mono e
Jiboshin-no Mai
Ororo Pinne
O-daiko
Minori Uta



Chieko Kojima's signature piece, “Hana Hachijo”

One Earth Tour - Europe 2010 Update

Currently on tour in Europe, Kodo got a great start in the Netherlands and warm welcomes in Finland, Denmark, and Germany. This month we start the UK leg of our tour, then onto shows in Ireland and Russia. We look forward to seeing all of you very soon!

Remaining destinations for this tour: Cambridge, Brighton, Coventry, Leicester, Truro, Plymouth, Basingstoke (UK). Dublin, Cork, Limerick (Ireland). Moscow (Russia).



The Kodo truck on tour in Helsinki, February 2010. Tickets are still available for most OET shows. [Please click here for schedules and box office details.](#)

DADAN ENCORE PERFORMANCES COMING THIS JULY

Directed by Kabuki legend Tamasaburo Bando, *Dadan* was held in September of 2009 for the first time. The curtain came down to rave reviews and we are pleased to announce that a new Japan tour of the show has been arranged for July 2010. Look forward to seeing *Dadan* grow and evolve as it carries the momentum built up last year to new heights.

[For schedules, please visit our website](#)



Director Tamasaburo Bando with the cast of *Dadan* in 2009



Quintessential *Dadan*, which means “men drumming”



Yosuke, Tomohiro and Yuichiro having a lark in “Ajara”

About Friends of Kodo

WHAT IS FRIENDS OF KODO?

Friends of Kodo is a support group maintained by the [Kodo Cultural Foundation](#), Kodo's non-profit and community outreach affiliate.

WHAT ARE OUR GOALS?

Friends of Kodo was established to facilitate communication between Kodo members and the members of the public who support our activities. *Friends of Kodo* is dedicated to bringing Kodo closer to our audience and fellow taiko enthusiasts. Membership is available to all. As well as receiving *The Kodo Beat*, members also get special advance ticket reservations for selected concerts in Japan, the chance to buy original goods available only to them, and selected discounts on a range of Kodo goodies. You'll also be given priority placement in certain Kodo workshops. Through this group, we enjoy getting to know the people who support our activities by name.

THE KODO BEAT

Up-close and personal with Kodo

The Kodo Beat is a quarterly English newsletter that focuses on Kodo's various activities. Printed versions are sent to *Friends of Kodo* members by post with special forms for member-only ticket reservations and [Earth Celebration](#) ticket and workshop application forms. The online version of *The Kodo Beat* is available free of charge on our website.

Providing new insights to the many faces of our group, *The Kodo Beat* includes in-depth profiles on Kodo members written by editor Johnny Wales. You'll also get to read snippets of news about our members, families and friends. With content that is exclusive to this publication, *The Kodo Beat* is a fresh and informative seasonal catch-up with Kodo.

To join *Friends of Kodo*, [please click here](#).



the
KODŌ
beat

鼓童

Kaguyahime at the Opéra National de Paris

Modern composer *Maki Ishii's* musical suite *Kaguyahime*, which debuted in 1984, will be performed by the *Paris Opera Ballet* as a new production at the *Opéra Bastille* in June and July, 2010. Directed by *Jiji Kylian*, one of modern ballet's most celebrated choreographers, seven members of Kodo will join the *Paris Opera Ballet*, a group of Western percussionists, and a *gagaku* (Japanese court music) ensemble for this production. This will mark the first time for a taiko group to take the stage at the *Opéra National de Paris*.

The musical suite *Kaguyahime* was originally created as a comprehensive stage production including a Japanese percussion ensemble, a Western percussion ensemble, ballet, pantomime, and spoken word, making it an especially unique performance piece among Maki Ishii's numerous works. The story is based on the 10th century Japanese folk story, *The Tale of the Bamboo Cutter*. It tells the story of a mysterious girl called *Kaguya-hime*, who is discovered as a baby inside the stalk of a glowing bamboo plant.

The suite was first performed in 1984 at the *Berlin Opera House*, with music performed by Kodo and the *Opera Percussionists*. In 1985 a version incorporating ballet made its debut featuring the *Tokyo Star Dancers Ballet*, Kodo and the *Percussion Ensemble Okada of Japan*. In 1988 Maki Ishii and Jiji Kylian joined forces to bring *Kaguyahime* to the next level, creating a whimsical combination of Eastern and Western art that received great critical acclaim. This show first took place at the *Holland Dance Festival* featuring Kodo's



Kaguyahime as a ballet.

photo by Jacques Meati

Katsufi Kondo, so it has been nearly 22 years since this remarkable international collaboration has been seen.

Following are some thoughts by a participant of the original performance, Kodo's musical director *Motofumi Yamaguchi*.

Kaguyahime was a fusion of Western and Asian percussion instruments that contemporary composer

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Kodo Performances 2010

Coming up this year

ONE EARTH TOUR 2010

March: Europe - United Kingdom, Ireland, Russian Federation

May-June: Japan - Kansai (Hyogo, Shiga, Wakayama), Chubu (Gifu, Shizuoka), Kanto (Chiba, Tokyo, Saitama, Tochigi), Tohoku (Fukushima, Iwate), Hokkaido, etc.

September: Japan - Kanto (Tokyo, Kanagawa, Gunma, Chiba, etc)

October-November: Europe - Netherlands, United Kingdom, Germany, etc.

SCHOOL WORKSHOP-PERFORMANCE TOUR

May: Nagano City

October-November: Planned for Kansai & Kanto areas

AIKAWA KOZAN MATSURI

July 25 (Sun) Aikawa, Sado Island

EARTH CELEBRATION 2010

August 20 (Fri) – 22 (Sun) Ogi, Sado Island

Shiroyama Concerts with special guests Corsican polyphonic singing ensemble A Filetta

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES IN JAPAN

March: Kodo *Ubusuna* - Ehime, Osaka, Ishikawa, Niigata, Tokyo

July: Kodo *Dadan* - Niigata, Chiba, Saitama, Kumamoto, Shizuoka, Aichi

SPECIAL PERFORMANCES ABROAD

June-July Kodo in *Kaguyahime* Opéra Bastille, Paris, France

September Kodo at Rencontres de Chants Polyphoniques de Calvi Festival, Corsica, France

SOLO PROJECTS

Shogo Yoshii in *Babel* by Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui, Damien Jalet and Antony Gormley - Europe

Yoshie Sunahata in Akram Khan's *Gnosis* - Europe, Middle East, Taiwan, Australia

KODO DECEMBER CONCERTS

A compilation of the best of 2010, this show will set the tone for Kodo as the group transitions into its 30th anniversary year.

December: Sado, Niigata, Nagoya, Osaka, Sendai, Tokyo



Masami Miyazaki



Yoko Fujimoto's soulful rendition of "Ororo Pinne" as performed in *Ubusuna*.

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Winter's stormy shoreline, Sado Island

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