

鼓童

KODŌ

eNEWS

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## Shiroyama Concert Artistic Director, Yuichiro Funabashi, Reflects on EC

We seem to be forever on tour, on the road for one journey after another. But once a year the time comes for us to return home for [Earth Celebration](#), our festival here on Sado Island. This year's guests, [A Filetta](#), are vocalists from Corsica, a beautiful island in the Mediterranean Sea. The sacred power in the voices of these seven men is channeled from the history of the island that courses through their very veins. Like us, they are based on a remote island and remain dedicated to the traditions of their region, but at the same time they continue to reach a larger audience through tours in France and around the globe.

Separated by geography, we sadly have not been able to spend much time together. I look forward to the reunion of our two groups this summer, when we will have the opportunity to cultivate a deeper connection through time spent together on Sado. I imagine that the result of this meeting will be manifested not only in new sights and sounds, but also in an atmosphere that simply has to be experienced to be understood.

On the Shiroyama stage, I imagine that at times our groups will resonate and meld as one, while at times chaos

*continued on next page*



*Yuichiro Funabashi, Earth Celebration Artistic Director, 2010*



*Eiichi Saito, under the lights at EC*

## About the Kodo Cultural Foundation

Thanks to the support of many friends, the Kodo Cultural Foundation was established in 1997 in order to increase the range of activities that Kodo could engage in on their home of Sado Island. Its primary mission

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may prevail. I look forward to seeing how the resulting music will emerge, evolve, and be received. In Japan, the joy of a true festival is not only found in its ritual events and offerings, but also in the bustle of the crowd, the mingling smells of spices at the food stalls, and the eclectic variety of music and people. There is excitement in being in a new place, away from the daily grind in an atmosphere that cultivates pure joy and stimulates all five (or perhaps even six?) senses.

This is the kind of magical three-day respite I hope to create at Earth Celebration together with A Filetta and everyone who comes to join the festival this year.



*Earth Celebration is a non-profit event proudly presented by Sado City and the Kodo Cultural Foundation.*

*Earth Celebration*



*A feast for the senses, Earth Celebration reflects the magic, joy and power of taiko, dance, song and cultural influences from around the world.*



## Kodo Cultural Foundation

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is to carry out non-profit 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 habitat to the revitalization of rare craft traditions and Noh theaters throughout Sado Island, the highly collaborative Kodo Cultural Foundation supports many vital initiatives.

If Kodo's performances are likened to a garden, then the foundation is the roots of the plants growing there. Its activities include holding workshops, planning the annual [Earth Celebration](#), creating a research library, managing the [Kodo Apprentice Centre](#) and carrying out research into the performing arts.



*Taiko is at the heart of the varied curriculum taught at the Kodo Cultural Foundation Apprentice Centre.*



*Kodo Cultural Foundation Chairman and renowned industrial designer Makoto Shimazaki explains his vision for the Kodo Cultural Foundation project, Earth Furniture.*



*Presented by Sado City and the Kodo Cultural Foundation, Earth Celebration brings crowds from Japan and around the world to Sado for performances, workshops, lectures, and cultural exchange. This photo shows the Fringe stage, a free venue where EC guests can share some of their own artistic expressions.*



## Kodo's Shogo Yoshii Reports on Rehearsals with A Filetta

This year's [Earth Celebration](#) guest artist [A Filetta](#) traveled to Paris in June to rehearse with Kodo members who were there for the performances of *Kaguyahime* at the Opera Bastille.

Here is a report by Shogo Yoshii who also took part in the 5 days of rehearsals during a break on his tour with [Babel](#). We hope it will inspire you to join us on Sado Island to see the results of their creative work on the Shiroyama Concert stage at *Earth Celebration 2010*, or to visit Corsica in September when Kodo takes part in A Filetta's own festival, *Rencontres de Chants Polyphoniques*.



*A Filetta meets Monochrome*

"The first time I met A Filetta was in Rome during our 2009 Spring European Tour. We had lunch together, and at the concert hall where our tour was based, we took turns showing each other our music. We tried our sound over theirs, and they sang over our music.

Their music is like a prism, like a piece of lacework which spins the sound in unique waves, changes in tone, and repetition. However, when we added taiko to it, it changed it completely. Our worlds were far too different. Trying to add taiko and flute to their world became our challenge.



*A Filetta and Kodo's Kaguyahime cast*

Of course, there are things we can do easily. Like layering two different pieces just as they are. But then it just becomes a superposition, and that's not what we want to do, we are not interested in just having a jam session.

As our ideas began to grow, I felt that our main thing in common was our island-folk connection. There was some kind of primitive element inherent in the harmony that was woven and offered by these men, with their fisherman physiques. I felt some kind of origin power from

them. I became convinced there was something I needed to tie to that origin.

I think that *Earth Celebration* is not just an outdoor festival. I think it is a time for people to gather and rejoice about culture, history, life, and all the coincidental chances the earth creates. I want to share the marvelous moment when we all meet on this small island called Sado and enjoy it thoroughly with everyone." - Shogo Yoshii



*Shogo sings with A Filetta at the rehearsals in Paris*

## “Sammy” by Masami Miyazaki

Here is another episode of Sammy, hiding from the Sado Island sun under her hat.



Look out for cheery Masami at [Earth Celebration](#). She'll be teaching the [Utanya Don Don workshop](#), performing in the Kodo Parade and unit "cocon" at the [Fringe](#), and at the [Shiroyama Concerts](#).



# Sammy

## "EC Stage Building Woes"

Is he  
alright?

I'm worried...

I'm so  
sweaty...

Ah, just as I  
suspected...

← he's got a lopsided tank top suntan.

**Kodo One Earth Tour 2010 ~ Autumn**  
**Japan, Israel, UK, Germany, Netherlands, Austria**



Sep. 10 (Fri) Kodaira, Tokyo, Japan  
 Sep. 11 (Sat) Ota Ward, Tokyo, Japan  
 Sep. 12 (Sun) Zama, Kanagawa, Japan  
 Sep. 17 (Fri) Oizumi, Gumma, Japan  
 Sep. 19 (Sun) Ichihara, Chiba, Japan  
 Sep. 20 (Mon) Musashimurayama, Tokyo, Japan

- Oct. 1: Tel Aviv, Israel (The Israeli Opera)
- Oct. 2: Tel Aviv, Israel (Mann Auditorium)
- Oct. 4: Haifa, Israel
- Oct. 5: Jerusalem, Israel
- Oct. 12: Aberdeen, UK
- Oct. 15: Gateshead, UK

Oct. 16: Liverpool, UK  
Oct. 17: Manchester, UK  
Oct. 19: Bristol, UK  
Oct. 20: Cardiff, UK  
Oct. 21: Nottingham, UK  
Oct. 23: Edinburgh, UK  
Oct. 25-26: Munich, Germany  
Oct. 28: Rosenheim, Germany  
Oct. 30: Stuttgart, Germany  
Nov. 1: Nuremberg, Germany  
Nov. 3: Nijmegen, The Netherlands  
Nov. 6: Vienna, Austria  
Nov. 8: Berlin, Germany

For updated schedules and box office details,  
please visit our website: [www.kodo.or.jp](http://www.kodo.or.jp)





## Kodo Performance Schedule

2010~2011

### EARTH CELEBRATION 2010

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

Shiroyama Concerts with special guests Corsican polyphonic singing ensemble [A Filetta](#). (Aug. 20 Kodo, Aug. 21 & 22 Kodo & A Filetta)



### SPECIAL PERFORMANCES ABROAD

September: Kodo Europe Festival Tour

Rencontres de Chants Polyphoniques Festival, Corsica, France.

Sep. 14 Bastia, Corsica. Sep. 16 Calvi, Corsica

All details for concerts and tickets available at the [festival's Facebook page](#)

Gent Festival of Flanders, Gent, Belgium

(Date & details TBC/Programme TBA later this month)

### SOLO PROJECTS ABROAD

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

### ONE EARTH TOUR 2010

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

October-November: Europe & Israel - United Kingdom, Netherlands, Austria, Germany

### SCHOOL WORKSHOP-PERFORMANCE TOUR IN JAPAN

September-November: Niigata, Tokushima, Chiba, Yamanashi, Aichi, Kyoto, Mie, Kanagawa, Tokyo, Tochigi

### KODO DECEMBER CONCERTS IN JAPAN

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, Yokohama, Tokyo

### KODO PERFORMANCES 2011: COMING UP NEXT YEAR

In 2011 Kodo will celebrate its milestone 30th anniversary. We are planning tours in North America and throughout Japan next year.

### ONE EARTH TOUR 2011

January-March North America



Lion



O-daiko



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Sado Island's coastline has countless coves and harbours where fishermen and their families have lived for centuries.

**Visit our official pages on:**

View from the top of Onogame Rock, Sotokaifu coastline, Sado Island

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