

Kodo One Earth Tour: Fall 2010

The [One Earth Tour](#) spent 10 days in Japan this September performing around the Kanto area. The tour group then came back to Sado Island, packed warmer clothes, and turned right around and flew off to Israel for four performances, followed by a five-country European tour.

The performers are on the last leg now, and will back to Japan soon, straight into rehearsals for the [Kodo December Concerts](#).



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View from centre stage in Tel Aviv



Kodo OET members by the Dome of the Rock, an Islamic shrine located on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem

Photo Album: Tomohiro Mitome

[Tomohiro Mitome](#) is currently on tour in Europe. Featured on every poster and centre stage as the O-daiko soloist, you could say he is the best-known face (or muscle?) of this One Earth Tour.

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Tomohiro: OET Photos*continued from page 1*

Off stage, Tomohiro is well-known among his colleagues for his numerous, memorable tour snapshots and avid sight-seeing. Here are a selection of his snaps from the current tour, with captions.

We hope you'll enjoy a glimpse at the tour through his camera lens.



One Earth Tour: Fall 2010

Japan, Israel, Switzerland,
United Kingdom, Germany,
Netherlands, Austria

Programme

Akatsuki
Stride
Chonlima
Hana Hachijo
Monochrome
Jang-Gwara
Yae no Furyu
Miyake
Kumo no Namiji
O-daiko
Yatai-bayashi

Artistic Director

Mitsuru Ishizuka

Cast

Chieko Kojima
Tomohiro Mitome
Yuichiro Funabashi
Yoshie Sunahata
Yosuke Oda
Masayuki Sakamoto
Kenta Nakagome
Tsuyoshi Maeda
Eri Uchida
Mariko Omi
Yosuke Kusa
Akira Takahashi



Tomohiro Mitome is well-known
from Kodō's performances and tour
posters around the world



Self portrait by Lake Lugano, Switzerland



Watching the o-daiko take a separate route into the theatre

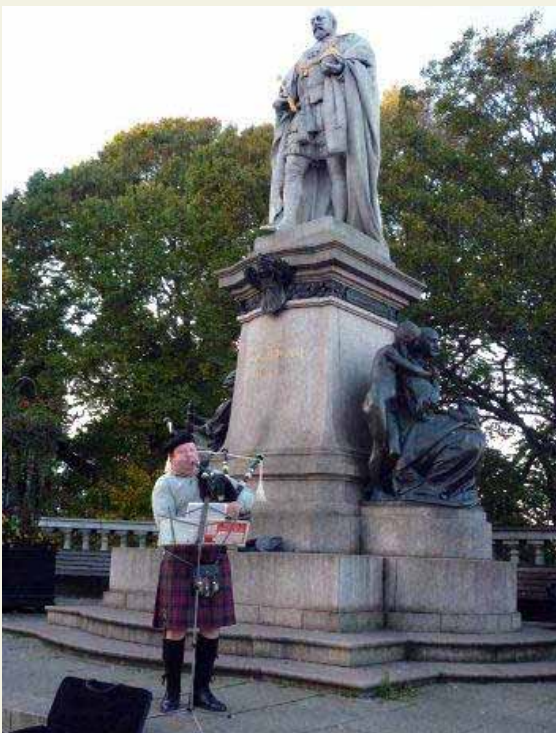
Tomohiro: OET Photos
continued from page 2



In front of The Western Wall (or "Wailing Wall") in Old City of Jerusalem



Masayuki smiles at all the helping hands packing the truck



Enjoying world music along the way



Sightseeing with fellow tour members Chieko, Nobu (assistant tour manager), and Eri in Israel



Traveling from Switzerland to the UK with Nobu, Masayuki, and Mariko

KASA/MIX 2010

Report

In the [May 2010 issue of Kodo eNews](#), we announced the KASA/MIX 2010 tour, which brought taiko enthusiasts from abroad to experience life on beautiful and historic Sado Island with Kodo, and to study drumming, song and dance of Japan with veteran performer and instructor [Yoshikazu Fujimoto](#). Here is a report on September's KASA/MIX by [Toni Yagami](#), KASA/MIX tour staff, long-time friend of Kodo, and Denver-based taiko performer and instructor.

“What a wonderful way to get to know people from the US, Canada, Australia, Brazil, and Japan. Many of this year's 20 participants were from groups with previous year's participants. They all mentioned that they were told that it would be a life-changing experience. I'm not sure if they believed it at first, but I think they were all convinced by the time we left Sado Island.

It is amazing that in four short days, how 17 [apprentices](#) and Kodo staff can affect your heart and soul, and renew your spirit and energy towards taiko. I



Bamboo flute practise with Yoshikazu

have been on 4 of the 5 KASA/MIX trips, and it happens every time for me - each trip is different, and wonderful in its own way. Yoshikazu-san shared his wonderful spirit and love of taiko with everyone, and I hope we can express his spirit from our hearts as we play taiko for ourselves and others.”

“The 2010 trip reconnected old friends like Aki and Yoshikazu, and welcomed a couple of non-taiko players into the ‘taiko family’ with

open arms. It was a pleasure working with this year's staff - Chie Otsuka (tour leader on all 5 trips); Joe Small (participant '03, Kodo apprentice 2007-08, staff '10) - and I look forward to future travels with them, past participants and future participants!”

“Thank you so much for a wonderful trip!”

For more information on KASA (Kodo Arts Sphere America), please visit their [website](#).

Please note that this workshop tour is not held annually. To be informed when the next one is planned, please send your contact details to KASA Email: kodoarts@earthlink.net



Groups of apprentices and participants collaborate to make a fun arrangement to the KASA/MIX song & dance “Issshoni” (Together)



O-daiko workshop with Yoshikazu

Friends of Kodo Members Exclusive Event

Yoshikazu Fujimoto's 60th Birthday Celebration



It will be [Yoshikazu Fujimoto's](#) 60th birthday on December 30, 2010. This is a special celebration for Japanese people, called "Kanreki." To thank you for supporting him for so many years, we are planning to hold a birthday celebration performance for the Friends of Kodo members.

Kanreki is a celebration of a man's 60th birthday. Kan means "return" and reki means "calendar." At 60, according to the Chinese zodiac, a person has returned to the calendar sign under which the person was born, after 5 different cycles of the 12 Chinese calendar animal years. For kanreki, the honoree wears a red vest, an item of clothing that is usually worn by babies, to signify that the person is beginning his or her life all over again. But for this event, we expect Yoshikazu will be wearing his taiko outfit and be ready for a lot of drumming.

We hope you will join Kodo for Yoshikazu's birthday celebration. After 60 years, and coming full circle, everyone still agrees that no one in Kodo lives up to the name "Children of the Drum" like Yoshikazu.

Yoshikazu Fujimoto's 60th Birthday Celebration

Talk & Performance

Date: December 18 (Sat), 2010

Doors Open: 17:30

Starts: 18:00

Ends: 19:00

Venue: Bunkyo Civic Hall Dai Hall, Tokyo

All free seating

Price: 1000 yen (Advanced reservations required)
(Friends of Kodo members may bring up to 5 non-members)

Note: Yoshikazu will be also performing in the [Kodo December Concerts](#), including the Tokyo matinee preceding this birthday event on Dec 18.)

If you are a [Friends of Kodo](#) member, please use the application form you received in the mail to purchase tickets.

To join [Friends of Kodo](#) and attend the show, please write your ticket order form request clearly on your application form.

Inquiries: Friends of Kodo Tel. 0259-81-4100

E-mail: friends.eng@kodo.or.jp

Kodo eNews Reader Special!

The RSVP deadline for this event was Oct 31st, but especially for Kodo eNews readers who wish to join Friends of Kodo, tickets for this event may be reserved until November 25th.



Yoshikazu's signature, featuring "Yatai-bayashi"

Autumn on Sado Island

As the long, warm days of Summer give way to Autumn, Sado Island changes once again. Leaves on the green mountainsides begin to turn yellow and red, and soon become rich tapestries of earth tones. It is said that Mt. Kinpoku enjoys every season of its reflection in the still waters of [Lake Kamo](#). In Autumn, in its handsome tweed overcoat, and perhaps with a dusting of snow on the skyline, it must indeed be well-pleased.

The slow pace of Summer now quickens as the harvest season demands hard work and long hours. In the fertile central plains of [Sado's Kuninaka District](#), the island's grain belt, rice fields have turned the plains into a rich golden carpet. The ears of rice are heavy, drooping over with their weight, and it is time to reap. The rice from this area includes the famous *koshihikari* rice grown just across the Essa Strait on the mainland of [Niigata Prefecture](#), the entire prefecture producing some of best rice in Japan (Some say it is even better.) While most rice is harvested and stored for export or to eat throughout the year, farmers often set some aside to eat fresh from the fields.

On other parts of Sado Island, in addition to pears, apples, melons and

a wide variety of vegetables, another famous crop is ready for harvest: persimmon (*kaki*). The orchard trees are now full of the brilliant orange fruit known as *Okesa kaki*, which are seedless and unique to Sado. After harvest, they will be partially dried (*Anpo kaki*); dried (*Hoshi kaki*); or steeped in Japanese vodka (*shochu*) until only their sweetness remains (*Sawashi kaki*).

Autumn is also a special time in the many small fishing villages along Sado's winding coastline. Blessed with one of Japan's most abundant fisheries - offering tuna, yellowtail, mackerel, sardines, octopus, squid, and shrimp, among others - Sado Island fisherman look forward to late Autumn when schools of yellowtail migrate south from Hokkaido. Once near Sado's waters, storms often drive them into the calmer and warmer inland waters of Ryotsu Bay, where they feast on smaller fish. As they fatten for winter, they grow rich and sweet tasting and come to be known as *buri*. When the fat content exceeds 15%, they are called "*Ichiban Kan Buri*" or Number One Winter Yellowtail. (Young yellowtail are called *hamachi*.)

Sado Island *buri* is prepared in many ways, including savory stews and *nabe* (hot pot) dishes, which are perfect for cool Autumn weather. The [Sado Kaifu Yellowtail Festival](#), held every December, is a great way to sample the cuisine and culture of this special fish.



Another Autumn festival features fresh soba noodles made from buckwheat grown on Sado. At the [Osaki Soba Festival](#), you can watch locals making soba noodles, sample local produce from the Osaki region and watch [Bunya](#) puppet performances.

As winter approaches, the skies above Sado are frequently clear and deep blue and the winds carry a suggestion of cooler weather to come. The meadows of Shiroyama Park in Ogi, home of [Earth Celebration](#), are quiet now. After nearly two months on the road in Europe and Israel, the performers and staff on the [One Earth Tour](#) will be returning home to Kodo Village soon, and to the special time of year that is Autumn on Sado.

~ Tam Stewart





Kodo Performance Schedule

2010~2011

ONE EARTH TOUR 2010

November: Europe - Netherlands, Austria, Germany

SCHOOL WORKSHOP-PERFORMANCE TOUR IN JAPAN

November: Tochigi, Niigata

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, Ashikaga, Sendai, Yokohama, Tokyo

SOLO PROJECTS ABROAD

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

Solo Projects & Workshops in Japan

Please visit the [top page of our website](#) and scroll down for details.

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

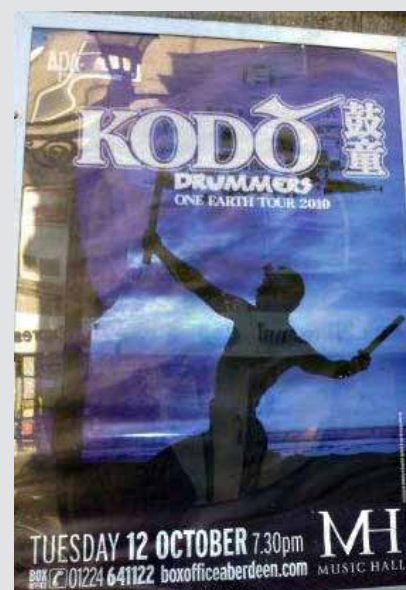
May-December: Japan



Thanks to a lot of sunshine, rain, and loving care, the Kodo Apprentices harvested a great rice crop this fall. It is drying on bamboo racks, and will be husked later in November. (Please see [eNews Issue 8](#) for the background story.)



The Odaiko has some company on stage in Aberdeen, sitting snugly beside the grand pipe organ.



Kodo concert poster for our first-ever show in Aberdeen

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*Fresh grains of rice from
 Sado's Kuninaka District
 await husking*



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Sado Island apples

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Contacts

Performances, Workshops, Bookings, and All General Inquiries
 Email: heartbeat@kodo.or.jp

Kodo CDs, Merchandise, Instruments
 Email: store.eng@kodo.or.jp

Friends of Kodo
 Email: friends.eng@kodo.or.jp

Postal Address and Contact Numbers

Kodo, Kodo Village, Sado Island, Niigata 952-0611 Japan
 Phone +81-(0)259-86-3630
 Fax +81-(0)259-86-3631
 Email: heartbeat@kodo.or.jp



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Photography in this issue: Tanya Downer, Maiko Miyagawa, Joe Small,
 Tam Stewart, Kodo's Yasuhiko Ishihara, Tomohiro Mitome

EC artwork: Hideaki Masago

Editorial, design and production: Melanie Taylor and Tam Stewart

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