

December with Kodo

This year's [Kodo December Concerts](#) got off to a great start with a packed theater at home on Sado Island. We'll be sharing photos and program notes with you in a report in January, so we don't spoil the surprise for those of you who will be joining us for the performance live. The tour will be performing in eight cities around Japan, with the finale concerts in Tokyo on December 17 through 19, wrapping up our touring for 2010.

Thank you very much to everyone who followed our activities through Kodo eNews this year, and to all of you who made our concerts a success with your support. Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season and a very happy New Year.



Masayuki Sakamoto in Kodo's traditional arrangement "Miyake"



Kodo 30th Anniversary – One Earth Tour

Inspired by elements of our group's home on Sado Island, this milestone [One Earth Tour](#) kicks off in [North America](#), January – March 2011.

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Dynamic new piece for 2010, "Stride" composed by Mitsuru Ishizuka

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30th Anniversary*continued from page 1*

Kodo is known for elevating Japanese folk arts to a contemporary expression that captivates audiences around the world. Our performances, numbering in the thousands, have graced stages in every corner of the globe, leaving an indelible mark on the international music scene. From the time of our group's inception to the present day, the eyes of the world have been on our intrepid ensemble. Kodo's style is both revered and emulated by artists across multiple genres worldwide. In 2011, thirty years after the group first took to the stage at the Berlin Festival in 1981, Kodo will embark on a momentous journey, traveling first to America, then across our native Japan, and finally into Europe for a year that promises to be a crowning jewel on our thirty-year odyssey.



As Kodo celebrates its 30th anniversary, the **Kodo 30th Anniversary - One Earth Tour** will highlight a new generation of young performers who will carry the group's traditions into the future. Audience members will be invited to give themselves over to the flow of the program and be fully present as each blissful moment ensues and the sound of the taiko reverberates through their very beings.

Kodo 30th Anniversary – One Earth Tour 2011 North America (USA & Canada) January – March *Tour Schedule (as of November, 2010)*

* Schedule is subject to change. For further details, please check the [schedule on our website](#).

- January 26: Spokane, WA (Martin Woldson Theater at the Fox)
- January 28: Vancouver, BC (Queen Elizabeth Theatre)
- January 30: Olympia, WA (Washington Center for the Performing Arts)
- February 1: Arcata, CA (Humboldt State University - Van Duzer Theater)
- February 3: Berkeley, CA (Cal Performances, Zellerbach Hall)
- February 4: Berkeley, CA (Cal Performances, Zellerbach Hall)
- February 5: San Rafael, CA (Marin Center - Memorial Auditorium)
- February 7: Scottsdale, AZ (Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts)
- February 10: Los Angeles, CA (Walt Disney Concert Hall)
- February 11: La Jolla, CA (Balboa Theatre)
- February 13: Tucson, AZ (University of Arizona - Centennial Hall)
- February 16: Austin, TX (Paramount Theatre)
- February 17: Dallas, TX (Margot and Bill Winspear Opera House)
- February 19: Tulsa, OK (Hard Rock Casino Tulsa)
- February 21: Chicago, IL (Symphony Center)
- February 23: Ann Arbor, MI (University Musical Society, Hill Auditorium)
- February 25: Bloomington, IN (Indiana University Auditorium)
- February 27: Indianapolis, IN (Clowes Memorial Hall of Butler University)
- March 1: Pittsburgh, PA (Byham Theater)
- March 2: Pittsburgh, PA (Byham Theater)
- March 4: Montreal, QC (Place des Arts)
- March 7: Ottawa, ON (National Arts Centre - Southam Hall)
- March 9: Kingston, ON (Grand Theatre)
- March 11: Toronto, ON (Sony Centre for the Performing Arts)
- March 13: Boston, MA (Symphony Hall)
- March 17: Richmond, VA (Landmark Theater)
- March 19: Morristown, NJ (The Community Theatre at Mayo Center for the Performing Arts)
- March 20: New York, NY (Avery Fisher Hall)
- March 22: Utica, NY (The Stanley Theater)

To be followed by tours in Japan (2011) and Europe (early 2012). Schedules TBA.



🌀 Kodo Online Store in English ~ Year-End Update 🌀

We are pleased to welcome some new items to the [Kodo Online Store in English](#): Taiko drumsticks (bachi) designed by veteran performers Eiichi Saito and Tomohiro Mitome, the 2011 Kodo Calendar, & a new Kodo Village Camellia Petal-Dyed T-Shirt featuring Kodo lanterns. We hope you'll spoil your favourite Kodo fan, or yourself, with a little-something-Kodo this season of giving, and start the New Year with Kodo as we celebrate our 30th anniversary.



Pick up a 2011 calendar and follow Kodo day by day as the group goes on its historic journey: the "Kodo 30th Anniversary - One Earth Tour"



Eiichi stokes the fire at Kodo Village, which is heating the dining room and office building, drying mushrooms for soup stock and camellia petals for t-shirt dye



We gathered petals from Kodo Village's own camellia grove to try our hands at creating a one-of-a-kind fabric dye. Looks good, feels great!

Kodo Costume

Modelled by Sammy.

Explained by Kodo.



We are often asked questions about our stage costumes, so Masami Miyazaki has illustrated and labeled the parts of the Kodo costume

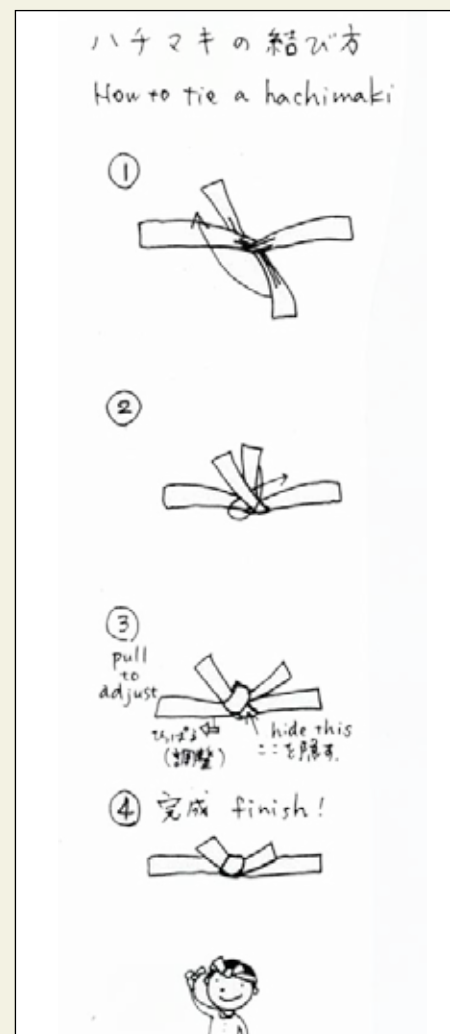
especially for eNews, modeled by Sammy, with instructions on how to tie your own *hachimaki*. A special thanks to founding members and Kodo staff Kiyoko and Yoshiaki Oi for their help with the following explanation.

The Kodo *happi* (short coat) was designed in the seventies for Kodo's antecedent group *Sado no Kuni Ondekoza* by industrial designer and Japanese craft specialist Mr. Yoshio Akioka. The Kodo costumes are all

natural indigo-dyed durable cotton, as worn traditionally by Japanese workmen. In the Edo period, indigo was the only color allowed for clothing worn by the working class. We continue to use indigo as this natural dye makes the fabric stronger, last longer, and repels insects and odor-- all important qualities for the rigorous workout we give these costumes. Workmen's clothing was adapted by Kodo because, since the old days, it was the workers who played the drums at festivals in their everyday work clothes.

The characters on the lapels read "Kodo", which means "heartbeat," written for our group name with the kanji (Chinese characters) meaning "drum" and "child." The triangle design is a traditional pattern called *uroko-moyo* which means "scale pattern." Scales, as in those of an animal skin, are said to protect the wearer and help them assume a non-human form or powers. These particular scales are of serpents (dragons or snakes), revered as the god of water, which is a much-needed resource in agricultural Japan. The scale pattern on the Kodo Costume is taken from Sado Island's *onidaiko* (demon drumming) costume and also represents the waves in Sado's sea. The demons, also non-human beings, drum to pray for and rejoice in a good harvest which requires a lot of water for crops to flourish. The sea surrounding our island home brings bounty and carries us on our travels, as it also shapes the land, lifestyles, and culture of its people. This scale design was chosen for our costume to represent Sado Island.

The headband, *hachimaki*, is hand-made by each player for their own perfect fit and is tied with care before each performance to keep it tight and in place. Worn in Japan predominantly as a sweatband, the *hachimaki* has become a workman's symbol of perseverance or strength.



While it is clear that drumming works up a sweat, Kodo performers find the *hachimaki* helps them focus, with its knot pressing on the forehead, just like the *fundoshi* (white loincloth) helps a male drummer concentrate his energy in his abdominal core. We cut both of these cloths from the exact same white cotton fabric. While easily noticed on the drummers playing *O-daiko* and *Yatai-bayashi* on the Kodo stage, some of the Kodo men also wear *fundoshi* under their indigo costume on stage to focus their strength for a performance.

Our costumes remind us many things: simplicity, tradition, craft, nature, lifestyle, durability, focus and strength. We hope this explanation shows you another side to the design we proudly wear on our various tours, and some insights into Japan as well.





Kodo Performance Schedule

2010~2011

KODO PERFORMANCES 2010: COMING UP THIS YEAR

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

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

SOLO PROJECTS IN JAPAN, WORKSHOPS, NEWS & INFORMATION

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



"Jang-Gwara"

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.

KODO 30TH ANNIVERSARY - ONE EARTH TOUR

January - March 2011: [North America](#)

May - December 2011 Japan (Schedules TBA Feb 2011)

January - March 2012 Europe (Schedules TBA mid 2011)



Kenta Nakagome will be taking on the mighty O-daiko on the "Kodo 30th Anniversary - One Earth Tour" in North America 2011. It's his first time in this centre-stage solo position, and we hope you'll go and cheer him on

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*Antique kimonos. Shukunegi
Village, Ogi, Sado Island*



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December skyline; Sado Island

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