

鼓童

KODŌ

eNEWS

Issue 14

January 2011

## Happy New Year from Sado Island!

Everyone at Kodo is excited about this milestone year, 2011, in which our group celebrates its 30th anniversary.

We are marking 2011 with a special [One Earth Tour](#), a brand new album, and other commemorative projects. We hope you'll join our festivities, and keep in touch throughout the year through Kodo eNews!



New Kodo Album **Akatsuki** On Sale January 22, 2011

..... See Page 2 .....

### In This Issue

[New Kodo Album](#) 2

[Report: December Concerts](#) 3

[Dance Award Nomination](#) 5

## New Kodo Album *Akatsuki* On Sale January 22, 2011

It has been five years since our best-of album *Heartbeat Best of Kodo 25th Anniversary* hit the shelves and six years since our last all-original album *prism rhythm* was released. So this year we are extremely excited to put out a brand new album that captures the spirit of the group today and is sure to become a defining recording for Kodo in the next generation.

Recorded at Kodo Village, this 11-track disc includes brand new compositions as well as never-before-recorded stage pieces. Our favorite songs, polished in performance on countless stages worldwide, have been given new life through special arrangements that are only possible in a recording setting. Some new music was composed especially for this album, while other songs were born of collaboration with other artists. A few of the tracks showcase the captivating vocals of our female performers, while all eleven highlight Kodo's broad range of expression and individuality.

*Akatsuki* also features a new piece, *Honoka*, written to commemorate legendary artist Taro Okamoto's centennial birthday. As a new release, the album comes with a Limited Edition Bonus DVD featuring behind-the-scenes footage of Kodo and Sado Island while the album was recorded.



### *Akatsuki* - Kodo 30th Anniversary Album Limited Edition CD + DVD

Price: 3,300 yen (Tax. Inc)

On Sale: January 22, 2011  
at Kodo Online Store and  
Concert Venues

Limited Edition Bonus  
DVD: 10 mins.

Product Code: OD-004/5

Sales Agency: Otodaiku

#### Tracks

*Tamayura no Michi*  
*Stride*  
*Akatsuki*  
*Yoshino no Yama*  
*BURNING*  
*Vanguard*  
*Ogi Oiwake*  
*Uzushio*  
*Honoka*  
*Kachi*  
*Sora*

*Akatsuki* will be available from the Kodo Online Store  
from January 22. [Pay online, delivery worldwide.](#)



## Kodo December Concerts 2010

Thank you very much to everyone who joined us for the [Kodo December Concerts](#) last month.

Here are some photographs from the performances, to let you relive the concert or get a glimpse of what you missed. [Yoshikazu Fujimoto](#) was one of three featured O-daiko soloists in this programme, and he turned 60 on December 30th. We celebrated his special birthday with a talk & performance followed by a reception in Tokyo on December 18th.

Yoshikazu is still going strong as a Kodo performer, and we look forward to your continued support.

Here are the programme notes for two pieces that were featured on stage in the December Concerts and appear on our new album *Akatsuki*:

### *Yoshino no Yama*

(Traditional, arranged by Yoko Fujimoto)

*Yoshino no Yama* is a song and shamisen piece that dates back to the Muromachi Period (14-16th century). This song has seen many incarnations throughout the centuries, but today it is best known through musician Harue Momoyama who turned it into a contemporary classic. Kodo performs this piece by harnessing the powerful voices of Yoko Fujimoto and Yoshie Sunahata layered over an accompaniment of taiko, gongs and bells.

### *Sora*

(Composed by Shogo Yoshii, 2010)

This piece brings a dynamic twist to a light-hearted bamboo flute melody, adding tone and texture with taiko and cymbals. Cultivating inspiration through the people, places and diverse music that Kodo encounters on its journeys, composer Shogo Yoshii hopes the group will find new energy for expression through this piece.



*"Yoshino no Yama"*



The cast surrounds Yoshie Sunahata in "Stride" on her last Kodo tour. She will be a Sado-based Kodo member from 2011.



The December Concert cast thanks the audience at the conclusion of the opening night performance on Sado Island.

continued on next page

**December Concerts 2010***continued from page 3*

Yoshikazu Fujimoto's "O-daiko," a unique style and sound forged by decades of performing



Fellow Kyoto-ites Kazuki and Yoshikazu share some hometown rhythms on the stage



Hirado-daiko solo piece, "Akatsuki," composed and performed by Yosuke Oda

**Programme**

Akatsuki  
Stride  
Chonlima  
Koikoi Fusha  
Yoshino no Yama  
Kiyari, Miyake  
Sora  
Kumo no Namiji  
O-daiko  
Yatai-bayashi

**Artistic Director**

Mitsuru Ishizuka

**Cast**

Yoshikazu Fujimoto  
Yoko Fujimoto  
Eiichi Saito  
Tomohiro Mitome  
Kazuki Imagai  
Masaru Tsuji  
Yuichiro Funabashi  
Yoshie Sunahata  
Yosuke Oda  
Masayuki Sakamoto  
Kenta Nakagome  
Eri Uchida  
Yosuke Kusa



## Dance Award Nomination for Yoshie Sunahata

We have received some great news from the United Kingdom. Yoshie Sunahata's profound performance in Akram Khan's *Gnosis* has been nominated for the [Critics' Circle National Dance Award](#) 2010 for Outstanding Female Performance (Modern). The award winners will be announced at a ceremony in London on January 24, 2011. Kodo is looking forward to the results!

For news as it comes to hand, follow the [National Dance Awards on Twitter](#).



*Akram Khan & Yoshie Sunahata in "Gnosis"*  
(Photo: Laurent Ziegler)

## ~ Chindon Kodon 2010 ~

**Cast:** Ayako Onizawa, Masami Miyazaki, Kenzo Abe, Tokio Takahashi, Mariko Omi, Akira Takahashi  
**Artistic Director:** Masami Miyazaki



*Chindon Kodon* performances held in December at the Sado Island Taiko Centre were well received by smiling audiences of all ages. With interactive components, humor, new pieces, and the opportunity to get to know everyone who attends, it's a tradition we look forward to continuing in years to come.



## Kodo Performance Schedule 2011-2012

### COMING UP THIS YEAR

#### KODO 30TH ANNIVERSARY - ONE EARTH TOUR

January - March: [North America](#)

May - July: [Japan](#)

Kyoto, Nara, Tokyo, Saitama, Tochigi, Gumma, Yamanashi, Nagano, Chiba, Kanagawa, Ibaraki, Yamagata, Akita, Aomori, Hokkaido, Fukui, Toyama, Niigata, Hyogo, Miyagi

September - November: [Japan](#)

Kinki, Chubu, Kanto, Shikoku, Chugoku, Kyushu, Okinawa

December: [Japan](#)

Osaka, Nagoya, Tokyo (Aoyama Theatre), Niigata (Nagaoka, Niigata, Sado)

To be followed by a tour in Europe (early 2012).

Schedules TBA on the [Kodo website](#)

#### EARTH CELEBRATION 2011

August 19 (Fri) - 21 (Sun): Sado Island, Japan  
(Details TBA May 2011)

#### SOLO PROJECTS IN JAPAN, WORKSHOPS, NEWS & INFORMATION

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



## Kodo 30th Anniversary One Earth Tour 2011

**North America  
(USA & Canada)  
January - March**

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

- January 26: Spokane, WA
- January 28: Vancouver, BC
- January 30: Olympia, WA
- February 1: Arcata, CA
- February 3: Berkeley, CA
- February 4: Berkeley, CA
- February 5: San Rafael, CA
- February 7: Scottsdale, AZ
- February 10: Los Angeles, CA
- February 11: La Jolla, CA
- February 13: Tucson, AZ
- February 16: Austin, TX
- February 17: Dallas, TX
- February 19: Tulsa, OK
- February 21: Chicago, IL
- February 23: Ann Arbor, MI
- February 25: Bloomington, IN
- February 27: Indianapolis, IN
- March 1: Pittsburgh, PA
- March 2: Pittsburgh, PA
- March 4: Montreal, QC
- March 5: Montreal, QC **NEW**
- March 7: Ottawa, ON
- March 9: Kingston, ON
- March 11: Toronto, ON
- March 13: Boston, MA
- March 17: Richmond, VA
- March 19: Morristown, NJ
- March 20: New York, NY
- March 22: Utica, NY

To be followed by tours in [Japan](#)  
(2011) and Europe (early 2012).  
Schedules TBA on the [Kodo website](#).



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*Built of locally harvested timber,  
the Sado Island Taiko Centre is  
full of light, even in mid-winter*



Visit our official page on:



*Shukunegi, Ogi Peninsula, Sado Island*

## Resources

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[Kodo Online Store \(English\)](#) **NEW**

## Contacts

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