

鼓童

KODŌ

eNEWS

Issue 15

February 2011

New Album *Akatsuki* is on sale now!

Our latest album *Akatsuki* went on sale on January 22, and is proving to be a great seller at the [Kodo Online Store](#) and at concert venues on the current [Kodo 30th Anniversary One Earth Tour in North America](#). Thank you very much to everyone who has secured their copy already!

Recorded in the Rehearsal Hall at [Kodo Village](#), this 11-track disc includes brand new compositions as well as never-before-recorded stage pieces. 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.

Behind the Scenes: Recording at the Kodo Rehearsal Hall

The Kodo Rehearsal Hall is one of the pillars of Kodo Village, located in the southern part of beautiful Sado Island. It is immersed in deep greenery, with the rich tableau of the changing seasons visible through its windows. Outside, nature's breath manifests itself in the chirp of insects, the smell of flowers, and the sound of trees swaying in the wind.

The hall houses a vast array of taiko drums in all shapes and sizes, used both in frequent stage performances and countless practices. Microphones sometimes pick up the powerful resonance of cicadas singing outside, prompting members to take a break,



step out into the courtyard garden and look up into the endless sky until silence returns. All of these elements set the scene for recording and add to the unique atmosphere at Kodo Village.

Characterized by its high ceilings and timber construction, the hall makes the sound of the taiko reverberate more powerfully than any other studio. The floors and the walls echo like instruments in their own right. This is the space where Kodo

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音大工
OTODAIKU

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Akatsuki

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songs are born and the foundation for the members' daily training. The performers are most familiar with this environment, allowing for optimum concentration, and it is this special place that enables us to capture the living sound of Kodo.

To hear sample tracks from *Akatsuki* and other Kodo albums, please visit our [CD Listening Booth](#).



Composer Shogo plays the kokyū for "Tamayura no Michi"



Yuichiro, Kazuki and Masayuki during the recording of "BURNING"

Akatsuki - Kodo 30th Anniversary Album

Limited Edition CD + DVD

Price: 3,300 yen (Tax. Inc)

Released January 22, 2011

Limited Edition Bonus
DVD: 10 mins.

Product Code: OD-004/5

Sales Agency: Otodaiku

Featured tracks include

Tamayura no Michi

Stride

Akatsuki

BURNING

Ogi Oiwake

Kachi

Sora

Akatsuki is available now from the [Kodo Online Store](#).



Yoshie sings "Tamayura no Michi"

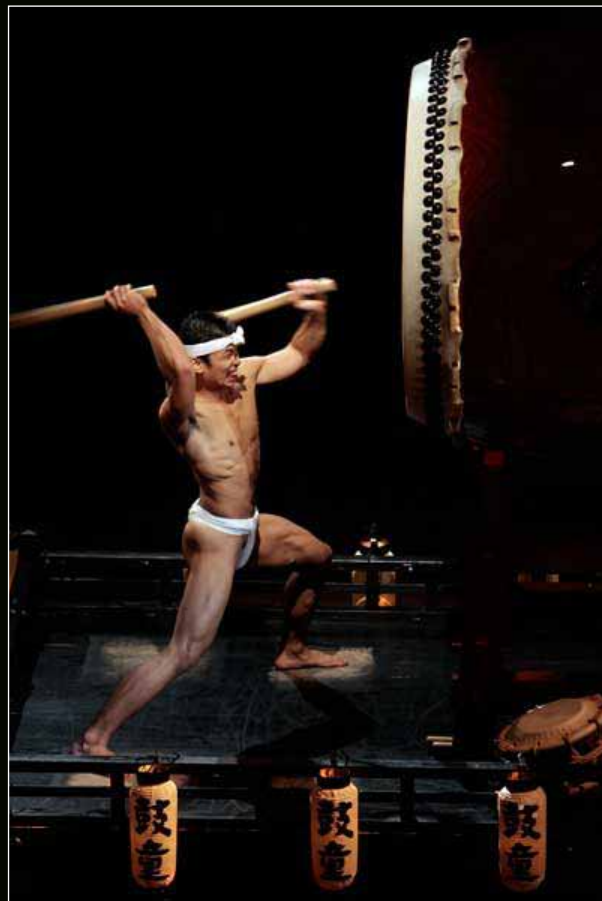
ON THE ROAD AGAIN

Touring in North America

We have enjoyed a very warm welcome in both Canada and the USA to start the **Kodo 30th Anniversary One Earth Tour**. Our two-month journey takes us to 13 US states and 3 Canadian territories. We look forward to all the concerts that await us in February and March, bringing us to new audiences and old friends.

Tickets are still available for certain performances. We hope you'll tell your family and friends if we are visiting a city near them to come along and celebrate the New Year, and our milestone year, with us.

For schedules, visit our [website](#)



Special Apology to the Presenter and Audience in Spokane, WA, USA

Due to major delays in the local freight system transporting our drums, our performance for January 26th at Martin Woldson Theater at the Fox, Spokane, WA, was cancelled. For this, we sincerely apologize to the presenter and audience in Spokane.

“Sammy” by Masami Miyazaki

Wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year, here is an episode of Sammy especially for everyone in the middle of the Northern Hemisphere winter, to ease any colds or sniffles.

Masami is currently on the [Kodo 30th Anniversary One Earth Tour](#) in North America. If you see her, be sure to yell out “Sammy!” She is looking forward to meeting our eNews readers on her travels across the USA and Canada this winter.



サミーちゃん 知る人ぞ知る
鼻うがいの



塩水を鼻から吸って
口から出す。
(片方ずつ)



鼻がよくとおるよかに
はります。



飲みこんでしまうと、



Sammy “Nasal
Irrigation”

sniff~

← Recommended for
people like this

You drink salt water
in through your nose
and spit it out through
your mouth.
(one nostril at a time)

Your nose will become
so clear.

fresh
&
clear

But...

if you swallow it
by mistake,
CAUTION! you'll feel
just awful.



Another glance behind the scenes of our new album, “Akatsuki”: In the cozy recording studio attached to the Kodo Rehearsal Hall, in Kodo Village on Sado Island, composer Yuichiro and cast listen to a play back of the freshly recorded track “BURNING.”

Chieko Kojima ~ KASA Workshop & Concert Tour, USA

[Chieko Kojima](#) is heading to the USA later this month for a [KASA](#) (Kodo Arts Sphere of America) workshop and concert tour with fue, flute & taiko player, former Kodo member [Kaoru Watanabe](#).

Together, they will spend three weeks teaching numerous taiko, dance, and bamboo flute workshops to various taiko groups in California, Arizona, and New York. For more information, please contact [KASA](#). We hope you'll join Chieko and Kaoru next month when they perform with [Maze Daiko](#) in Alameda, California on March 4 & 5.



Chieko Kojima, Kodo's prima donna of dance



Kaoru Watanabe, New York-based musician and instructor

Maze Daiko with Chieko Kojima & Kaoru Watanabe in Concert



Maze Daiko of Alameda, California

Island to Island Arts Festival
Friday, March 4, 2011, 8:00 pm
Saturday, March 5, 2011, 8:00 pm

Venue: Rhythmix Cultural Works
2513 Blanding Avenue
Alameda, CA 94501
Tel: +1-(510) 865-5060 (General Information)

For concert details and tickets, please visit the [Rhythmix website](#)

For other inquiries about this KASA tour and future events, please contact [KASA](#).

The Seasons of Sado Island: Winter

Winter on Sado Island is a time of crisp blue skies and fierce stormy seas. The beaches are empty and the mountains are capped with snow. Life in Kodo Village is full of activity with a busy office, the woodstove glowing, good smells from the kitchen and the sounds of practice in the rehearsal hall.

To capture the feeling of winter in Kodo Village, we asked: *What's most special about winter on Sado Island for you?* Here are a few answers from [Kodo performers and staff](#).

"The Sea of Japan in winter. I was brought up on the Pacific Ocean side of Japan (Yokohama), so for me the wild waves of the Sea of Japan in winter can be summed up in just one simple word: cool. You can see the same sea from mainland Honshu, but one special thing about living on Sado is being able to experience the tremendous Sea of Japan.



A tour truck waits patiently outside the Rehearsal Hall beneath a blanket of new snow

By experience, I mean by riding the car ferry when the waves are high."

Yoshiko Ando, staff

"I hate winter. But, I am happiest when I put my freezing cold body into a hot bath to warm it up. Japanese baths are the best." **Kazuko Arai, staff**

"The dramatically changing sky. Just when I think the light has broken through the clouds, the next instance hail begins to shower down. Then I see the blue sky through the gaps in the clouds. It is full of surprises." **Masami Ishihara, part-time staff**

"Well, no doubt it has to be kanburi (winter yellowtail) It has a nice layer of fat on it, it is good as sashimi (raw), and if you eat it as buri-shabu, it is too good to be true! If you cross the stormy seas to Sado, delicious treats are waiting for you! For buri-shabu, you lightly dip thinly sliced pieces of yellowtail into hot soup stock in an earthen hotpot, making it 'swim through the water.' You eat the fish half-cooked, dipped in tsuyu sauce, together with vegetables." **Yasuhiko Ishihara, a.k.a. Gan, staff**

"In the morning, the snowy scenery is lit by the sun and it sparkles so beautifully. Seeing that gives me the drive to do my best during the day." **Shizu Kasuga, staff**

"Using the woodfire stove. Gazing into the flames, gathering by the fireside and chatting with friends, it's a special time we only share in winter. And another



At the Sado Island Taiko Centre on a cold day in January, huddled close to a heater, Kodo performers Eiichi and Masayuki rehearse for an upcoming orchestra collaboration in Japan.

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Winter on Sado Island

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thing I like in winter is that sometimes when I look at the white clouds in the winter sky, I find little snow-white rabbits.” **Narumi Matsuda**, staff

“Winter on Sado for me is Japanese spineless cuttlefish, winter yellowtail, and cod soup! There are a lot of delicious foods! One thing I can’t forget is winter morning runs when I lived at the Kodo Apprentice Centre. We’d set off before sunrise heading gradually down the mountain road in pitch black, trying not to slip over, and I remember how worried I was, how white my breath was, and the sound of treading on the snow.”

Mariko Omi, performer



Freshly caught winter yellowtail (kanburi)

“Spring, summer and autumn are all really feel-good seasons for running on Sado. Now it is the middle of winter, the temperatures are below zero, and the snow is piling up. Kodo Village in particular is in a very windy place, so I am running in blizzards. It is so much fun, with no cars and no people on the road, it’s just me, struggling alone down the middle of the road in these conditions.” **Shin’ichi Sogo**, a.k.a. **Shinchan-sensei**, staff

“My favorite thing in winter... there is an abundant selection of all kinds of fish, and they are all so delicious in winter. I looking forward to going to a sushi-go-round on my day off.” **Yoshie Abe**, nee **Sunahata**, performer until Dec 2010, staff since Jan 2011. (Yoshie



Firewood gathered from the Kodo Village forest

kept her maiden name while still performing and will use her married name now she is staff.)

“When I think of winter on the Sea of Japan, of course I think of the seafood like winter yellowtail, squid, cod, and you can’t forget the seaweed. The sticky ones, the smooth (slimy?) ones, they are too delicious for words! I wonder if it’s only Japanese people who agree with me?” **Mari Takatsu**, staff

“I hate driving on the snow, but I love watching it fall when I am driving. It flies straight at my windscreen, or horizontally across in front of me, driven by the gale force wind. On the coast, the waves race towards the rocky coast and bash into it,

sending sea foam and spray across my car as I drive past. Listening to music as I drive, I feel like I am in a surreal music video or a play station game.” **Melanie Taylor**, staff

“In the freezing cold rehearsal hall, I like the steam that rises from the male performers after they have played ‘Miyake.’ They are like human water-boilers.” **Eri Uchida**, performer

“Of course, the tasty foods on Sado in winter are the best. Winter yellowtail, cod, oysters, seaweed, etc. And Sado’s hot springs. Getting warmed up, having some delicious sake, it can’t be beat!” **Hirofumi Uenoyama**, staff and Sado local





Kodo Performance Schedule 2011 - 2012

KODO 30TH ANNIVERSARY - ONE EARTH TOUR

February - 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](#)

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

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 & SMALL GROUP PROJECTS, 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) February - March

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

- 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
- 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

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office details, please visit our
[website](#).



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Snow rests against the bark of Sado Island cedar.



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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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