

## In the Wake of Disaster

*A Message from Kodo Managing Director, Takao Aoki*

On behalf of Kodo, I would like to offer our sincere prayers to the great number of people who lost their lives in the Tohoku Pacific Earthquake on March 11. We also offer our heartfelt condolences to everyone who has been displaced by the disaster and continues to struggle in the face of extreme hardship.

An earthquake on a historic scale, a colossal tsunami, and the following nuclear power plant crisis... the chain of calamities has been staggering. As the true extent of the damage is revealed day by day, we are all still reeling in disbelief and feel helpless at the sight of the horrifying scenes of thorough destruction. We mourn not only for the loss of life, but also for the



loss of regional culture in the disaster's wake.

But despite all of this, when I see the strength of the disaster-area victims who continue to strive on and help each other in the midst of

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## Our Members, Our Domestic Tour, and on Helping Japan

Since the disaster struck, we have received countless inquiries from both at home and abroad as to the well being of Kodo members and

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unimaginable grief and suffering, I am encouraged by their force of will and the vitality of human beings. I believe that through cooperation and solidarity, we will rebuild Japan, and it will be stronger than ever.

*Takao Aoki*

The myth of safety in nuclear power was shattered by the recent reactor crisis. We of course hope that this grave situation will be resolved as quickly as possible, but we must also heed this warning to mankind as we continue to pursue development and convenience over safety and sustainability. For the sake of the future, it is time to take pause and rethink our values and our current way of life.

Some of our performances planned in Japan for this year have been put on hold pending further developments. It is at times like these when we realize anew a very basic truth: In order for our performances to take place, we require a venue in which to perform and an audience to attend. In light of this disaster, Kodo has been forced to reexamine the very fundamental

questions of why we are playing taiko, why we practice performing arts, and why we travel the world. We eagerly await the day that we can return to the disaster areas and meet our many friends there. Until then, we will do everything we can to persevere in the face of this ordeal.

On March 11, Kodo was on tour in North America. We received a great deal of encouragement and support from audience members in Canada and the United States, as well as messages from countless friends around the world who showed their heartfelt concern about Japan. We thank you all from the bottom of our hearts. The devastated areas and disaster victims will require long-term

aid in recovery, and we hope you will all continue to offer your support.

We at Kodo are committed to taking action and doing everything we can do to help in Japan's recovery.

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**Helping Japan***continued from page 1*

their families. Thank you all for your concern; please rest assured that all of our members and their families are safe and well.

We are planning performances in the Tohoku area this spring, but some areas were affected by this natural disaster and our plans have been partially changed due to these circumstances. We will inform you on our [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) as we confirm the details. Thank you for your understanding.

To our friends, families, teachers, supporters, and colleagues in Tohoku, we send our prayers for your safety and swift recovery. Kodo members from northern Japan and their families are safe, and we all hope to help collect donations for all the victims as best we can.

To donate to the Japan Earthquake (Tohoku) and Pacific Tsunami fund, please do so via the [International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society](#).

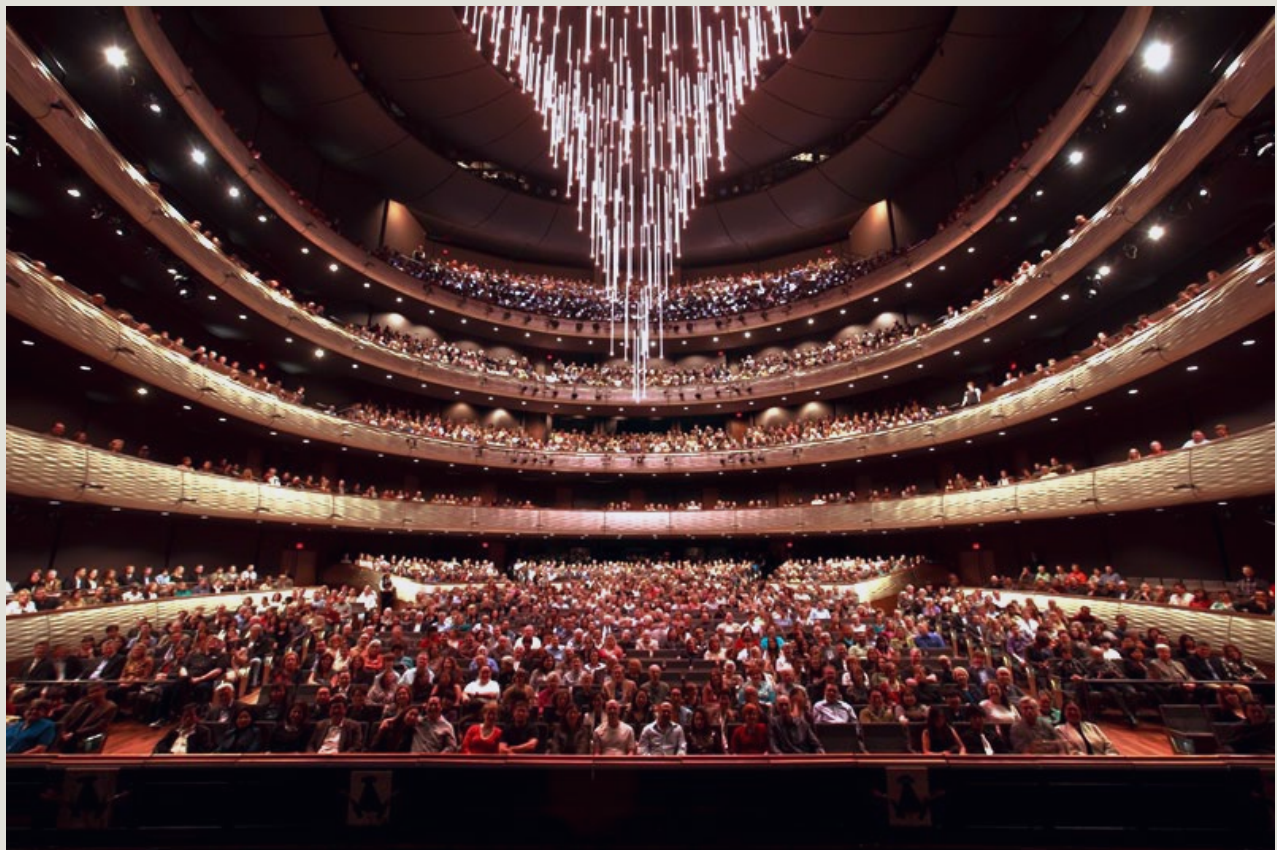


For current, detailed information about the disasters in Japan, Google Crisis Response has compiled a list of resources [here](#).

The list includes a person finder, health and shelter information, maps and imagery, public transit status in Japan, and a link to the Japan National Tourist Organization for overseas visitors traveling to Japan.

**Google Crisis Response**  
a google.org project

Kodo sincerely thanks the thousands of audience members who traveled from far and wide to join us for our [30th Anniversary One Earth Tour](#) in North America. A special thank you to all the concert organizers and staff. To our friends and supporters, we also offer our most sincere gratitude for your support towards the Japan Earthquake and Pacific Tsunami Relief with your donations and to Kodo with your words of sympathy. Our tour was an unforgettable reminder of the presence of our friends and “family” in North America and around the world.



*A full house awaits Kodo at AT&T Performing Arts Center's Winspear Opera House, Dallas, TX. Photo by Carter Rose Photography.*

## Kodo Turns 30



The [Kodo members](#) got together in the New Year to take a commemorative group portrait to mark the beginning of our milestone year. You'll notice founding member Yoshiaki Oi in the front row, who just celebrated his 60th birthday in February, wearing a bright red "60" Kodo sweater that both he and Yoshikazu Fujimoto received from the group. Both of them were members of our antecedent group *Sado no Kuni Ondekoza* in the 70's, and founding members of Kodo in 1981.

Our tour just returned from two months touring in North America, and from May the [Kodo 30th Anniversary One Earth Tour](#) will traverse every prefecture in Japan before landing at Tokyo's Aoyama Theatre for a 10-concert finale at year's end. The graphics for this landmark tour feature the name *Kodo* painted by internationally renowned artist Taro Okamoto in 1983. As Kodo embarks on this historic journey, we will harness the primal energy expressed by these fiery characters to propel us on an international tour of exchange and appreciation, visiting countless old friends and making new connections along the way. The Kodo 30th Anniversary One Earth Tour 2011 Japan will feature a cast of both veteran performers as well as newcomers, showcasing Kodo's past and present through the sheer life force that echoes from the taiko. For highlights of this special tour, please visit our [website](#).

After the March 11 earthquake and tsunami in Japan, this year will also be remembered in Japan as one of disaster, and coming together to overcome the ordeal. We expect that some further changes in our schedule may arise. We remain positive for Japan's recovery and look forward to visiting our friends in Tohoku soon.



## Photo Album: Kazuki Imagai

[Kazuki Imagai](#) has just arrived back to Japan after two months on tour in North America. The most senior performing member on this youthful cast, Kazuki was teaching the ropes to some of our newer members, and leading the cast through the performances head-on despite tough times for their families back in Japan. He is often remembered for his entertaining use of cymbals on stage, his drumming in *Miyake* and *Monochrome*, and dancing in *LION*.

Off stage, Kazuki is well-known among his colleagues for his love of soccer, Japanese comedy, and organizing events. He also loves to take group photographs and really (too?) close-up shots, calling people to look at his lens with a loud “Hai!” or “Wow!” Here is a selection of his snaps from the [Kodo 30th Anniversary One Earth Tour in North America](#), with captions.

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



*Kazuki Imagai*



*With the stunning cake at the Kodo 30th Anniversary Reception in Los Angeles, CA*



*Our taiko on stage in Ann Arbor*



## Photo Album

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At the brand new Hard Rock Casino, Tulsa, OK



Backstage in Ottawa, a signed Kodo photograph from 17 years ago in 1994



Kazuki captures himself in Canada, enjoying the sights



Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



Heading to the theater in snowy Ottawa



## Kodo Performance Schedule 2011-2012

### KODO 30TH ANNIVERSARY - ONE EARTH TOUR

May-July: Japan

*Subject to change due to the Tohoku Pacific Earthquake and Tsunami. For up-to-date schedules and box office details, please visit our [website](#).*



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

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](#)

### SCHOOL WORKSHOP-PERFORMANCE TOUR IN JAPAN

May-July, September – November: Niigata, Tokyo, etc

### EARTH CELEBRATION 2011

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

### SOLO & SMALL GROUP PROJECTS, WORKSHOPS, NEWS & INFORMATION

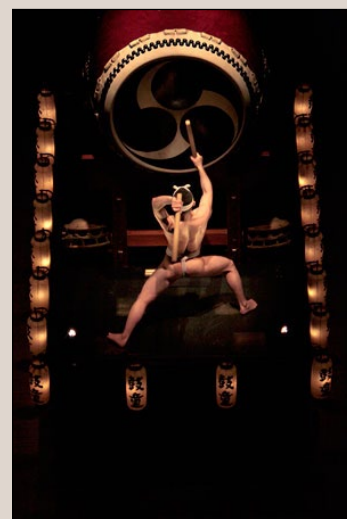
Please visit the [top page of our website](#) and scroll down for details.



## Kodo 30th Anniversary One Earth Tour 2011 Japan: May-July

*Schedule is subject to change.  
For up-to-date schedules and box office details, please visit our [website](#).*

- May 7: Kyoto City
- May 8: Nara City
- May 12: Tachikawa, Tokyo
- May 17: Tokorozawa, Saitama
- May 18: Utsunomiya, Tochigi
- May 20: Maebashi, Gumma
- May 21: Kofu, Yamanashi
- May 22: Matsumoto, Nagano
- May 25: Chiba City
- May 26: Sagami-hara, Kanagawa
- May 27: Yokosuka, Kanagawa
- ~~- May 29: Hitachinaka, Ibaraki~~
- June 1: Yamagata City
- June 3: Akita City
- June 5: Towada, Aomori
- June 8: Hokuto, Hokkaido
- June 11: Nemuro, Hokkaido
- June 12: Kushiro, Hokkaido
- June 15: Obira, Hokkaido
- June 17: Sapporo, Hokkaido
- June 18: Tomakomai, Hokkaido
- June 22: Tsuruga, Fukui
- June 24: Uozu, Toyama
- June 26: Shibata, Niigata
- July 10: Himeji, Hyogo
- July 16: Ogawara, Miyagi TBC





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*Sunflowers by the sea. Ogawa, Sado Island.*



New Album - Kodo Akatsuki



*Springtime garden. Ogi Peninsula, Sado Island.*

## Resources

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Photography in this issue: Carter Rose Photography, Tam Stewart, Buntaro Tanaka (Bt\_arts), Susumu Yoshida and Kodo's Kazuki Imagai, Taro Nishita, Takuro Susaki. EC artwork: Hideaki Masago

Editorial, design and production: Melanie Taylor and Tam Stewart  
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