

Heartbeat Project

On March 11, the Tohoku Pacific Earthquake struck, overwhelming us with the forces of nature. The following weeks have been a rude awakening to the many problems that plague societal support systems, and it is clear that much struggle still lies ahead.

For three decades now, Kodo has been thinking about the life force of human beings, the heartbeat that drives that force, the importance of existing in harmony with nature, and the sense of hope that these things cultivate within us all. The performing arts were born from these very basic building blocks of life, and we believe wholeheartedly in the power that art possesses to evoke change. With a renewed sense of purpose, we look ahead and begin our journey anew.

Through music and performance, we intend to show our support for those who continue to struggle in the wake of the disaster, and by sending this continual message, to help maintain awareness of their plight in the minds of people in Japan and around the world. Towards this end, we have



Kodo performers and staff gather to lend their cheering voices to the recording of Mitsuru Ishizuka's new support piece "Tomorrow"

begun the [Heartbeat Project](#), a multifaceted undertaking designed to support relief efforts and the people of the affected regions. Some elements will include new recordings for this specific purpose, as well as charity concerts, fund-raising events et al. Kodo looks forward to taking the next hopeful steps together with you all.

Under the Heartbeat Project, Kodo will appear in the [Eastern Japan Support Fumi no Miyako Charity Concert on May 28 in Tokyo](#).

Kodo 30th Anniversary Tour 2011 Japan: North & East



This month our special [One Earth Tour](#) heads off on the first leg of an extensive tour of Japan with 2 new junior members and 3 brand new

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Heartbeat Project

30th Anniversary Tour 2011*continued from page 1*

vehicles: 2 trucks and a bus! While the earthquake and tsunami changed a few of our plans, we are still heading to many areas in Tohoku, and then all over Hokkaido. We hope the sound of the taiko will bring hope to the disaster area and we will show our continuing support to Japan and the world through our music and activities.

To everyone in Tokyo and the surrounding areas, we'll see you soon too. We're bringing all the power we can muster to help recharge everyone's spirits.



Takeshi Arai with our brand new Kodo trucks, all ready for the domestic tour

New Faces

From this spring, three late-January graduates from the Kodo Apprentice Centre became junior performing members of Kodo. They are Shogo Komatsuzaki, Rai Tateishi, and Maya Minowa. From May to July, Shogo (a.k.a. Sho) will be on the School Workshop-Performance Tour and Rai and Maya will be on the 30th Anniversary One Earth Tour. We hope you'll cheer them on!



Rai Tateishi, Maya Minowa, and Shogo Komatsuzaki

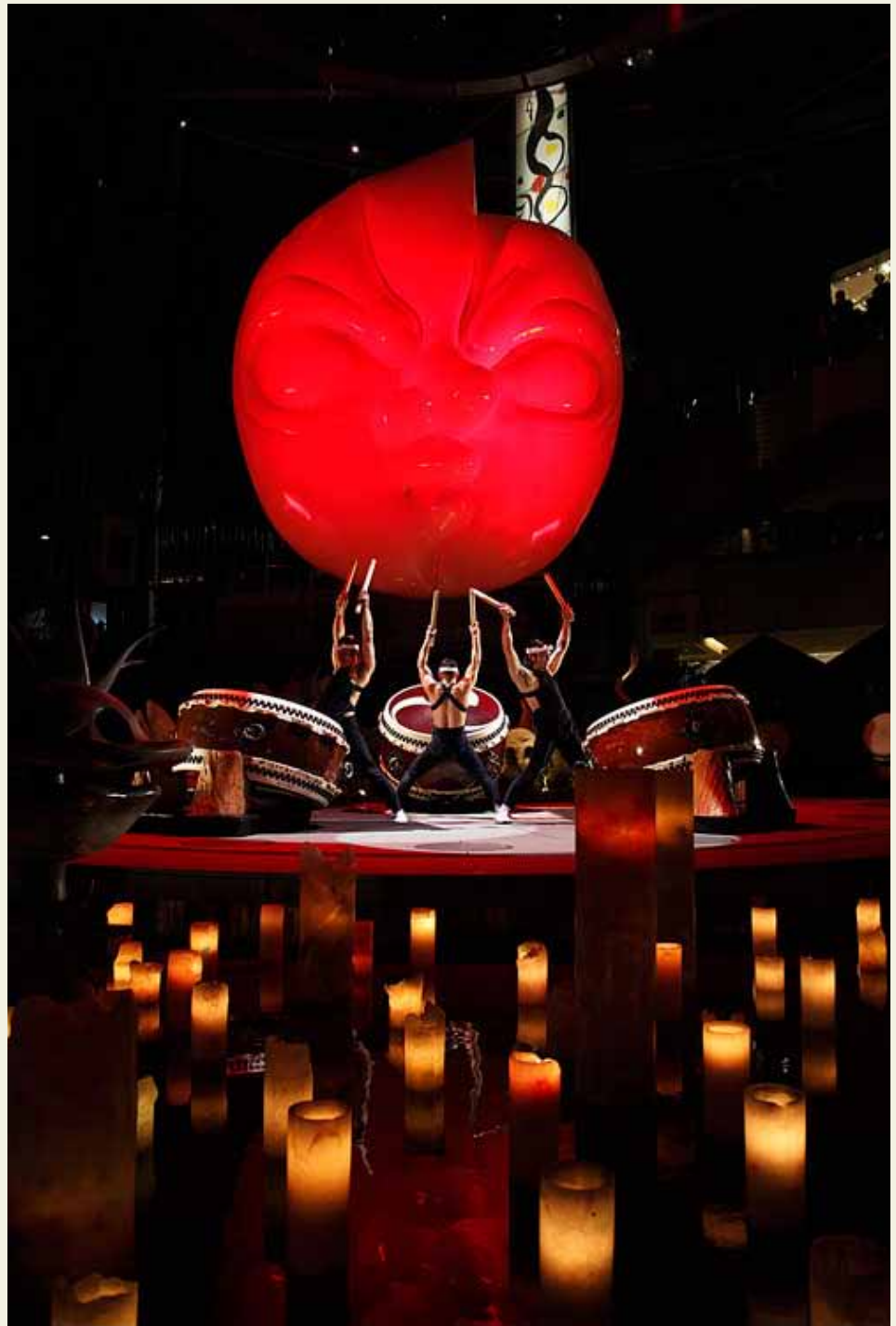
Taro Okamoto & Kodo: A Collaboration of Spirits

100 years since the birth of renowned Japanese artist [Taro Okamoto](#), Kodo, who deeply shares Okamoto's passion towards the arts and the creative world, will express the energy felt throughout one's body and soul when facing the taiko head-on in its latest piece *Honoka*. This composition was debuted on February 26 at [Taro Okamoto's birthday event](#), and will be performed nationwide from May on the [Kodo 30th Anniversary One Earth Tour](#) in Japan. The energy poured into *Honoka* (meaning fire's flames) will reach its greatest heights at the year-end consecutive performances to be held at [Tokyo's Aoyama Theatre](#).

The graphics for this landmark tour feature the name Kodo painted by 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.

We have just released a special 30th anniversary t-shirt featuring Taro Okamoto's Kodo characters. It is now available through the [Kodo Online Store](#). Taro Okamoto's atelier and [Memorial Museum](#) are located in Aoyama, Tokyo where Kodo will hold a series of concerts in December. In light of this connection our Tokyo concerts are an official TARO 100 event.

The audience will see Taro Okamoto's permanent artwork in front of the Aoyama Theatre where we will perform, and we hope you'll celebrate his centennial and our anniversary with us all.



Kodo performing at [Taro Okamoto's birthday event](#) at Roppongi Hills Arena, Tokyo





Kodo 30th Anniversary Goods On Sale Now



Kodo is pleased to announce some great memorabilia designed to commemorate our 30th anniversary. T-shirts and tenugui towels featuring the fiery Kodo characters in calligraphy by artist Taro Okamoto now available at the [Kodo Online Store](#), Sado Island Taiko Centre, and at Kodo concert venues. We hope you'll celebrate this year with us.

Special edition
30th Anniversary
tenugui, with
calligraphy by
Taro Okamoto



Special edition
t-shirts, as
proudly worn
in Kodo Village



Yoga with Sammy

Here is another episode of "Sammy" by performer Masami Miyazaki, who is getting ready to set off on the [Kodo School Workshop-Performance Tour](#) as artistic director and performer.



On the road, it can be hard to find time to relax, but stretching really keeps our performers in shape and prevents injuries and let's them take some deep breaths to prepare for each performance. We wish Masami and her cast a safe journey this spring and hope they can bring a lot of smiles to all the school children awaiting them in Japan.



Sammy "Hooked on yoga"

Breathing in
deeply through
my nose

Bending my body
backwards

Loosening up
my back

But...

the result might
be a little scary.

WOWOW SPECIAL PROGRAM

Blue Man x Kodo - Blue Man Meets Wadaiko!

On March 29, Kodo and cobalt-colored performing trio **Blue Man Group in Tokyo** came together for a special collaboration recorded for **WOWOW television in Japan**. When Blue Man's creative, original percussion rhythms met taiko and Kodo, can you imagine what happened?

This program was broadcast on WOWOW on May 2nd. We hope to have the chance to work with the **Blue Man Group** again in the near future. Thank you to everyone who came along to join the studio audience in Tokyo!



Blue Man Group in Tokyo with Kodo's Eiichi Saito, Tomohiro Mitome, Yuichiro Funabashi, Yosuke Oda, & Masayuki Sakamoto

KASA Workshop & Concert Tour with Chieko Kojima and Kaoru Watanabe

By Donna Ebata, KASA Program Director

This year the [KASA](#) tour featured Kodo's captivating interpretive dancer and drummer, Chieko Kojima, and the consummate fue artist and former Kodo member, [Kaoru Watanabe](#). The [KASA Workshop Tour](#) took them to Alameda, San Jose, Cerritos, New York City, and Brooklyn, with Chieko continuing on to do solo workshops in Tucson and Phoenix. In addition to workshops, there were two special concerts – one in Alameda in collaboration with Maze Daiko, and the other as guests in On Ensemble's concert at the Cerritos Performing Arts Center.

I caught one of the concerts at Rhythmix Cultural Works in Alameda, California. Chieko and Kaoru's *Hana Hachijo* had the audience mesmerized and at the edge of their seats. It was an especially inspired performance and one of the best I've seen. Although the piece was in the middle of the concert, the audience spontaneously jumped up and gave them a standing ovation! It was one of the highlights in a thoroughly entertaining mix of music, dance and collaboration with the wonderful Maze Daiko. (Check out their [performance of Hana Hachijo](#) on YouTube)

Thank you to all the presenters, translators, home-stay hosts, workshop participants and audiences. Thank you to Chieko and Kaoru for their dedicated work and for sharing so much of themselves in concerts and workshops. It was a fun and memorable tour!



With San Jose Taiko members after a dance workshop



Teaching at the Kaoru Watanabe Taiko Center, Brooklyn, New York



With Fushicho Daiko, Phoenix, Arizona



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

September-November: Japan

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

December: Japan

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

January-March 2012: Europe

Sweden, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, France, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg

Schedules TBA on the [Kodo website](#)

SCHOOL WORKSHOP-PERFORMANCE TOUR IN JAPAN

May-July: Niigata, Tokyo, Saitama, Iwate

September-November: Niigata, Okayama, Ehime, Tokyo, Kanagawa, Saitama, Tochigi

EARTH CELEBRATION 2011

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

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 6: Wajima, Ishikawa
- July 7: Kaga, Ishikawa
- July 10: Himeji, Hyogo
- July 16: Ogawara, Miyagi



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Camellia japonica in bloom at [Earth Celebration's](#) main concert venue
Shiroyama Park, Ogi, Sado Island

KODO



New Album:
Kodo Akatsuki



Sakura (cherry blossoms), Sado Island.

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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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