

Join Kodo on Sado Island this August for Earth Celebration!

Under the theme “*Tataku*” (to beat a rhythm), the most primal of human expressions, “Earth Celebration” began nearly a quarter century ago as a tribute to Mother Earth. In 2011, the 24th year of the festival, we met with an overwhelming challenge from nature. Although we may feel powerless as individuals, we stand strong when united in the face of hardship, and together we pray for the recovery of all those affected by the disaster.



EARTH CELEBRATION 2011

August 19 (Fri) – 21 (Sun), 2011

Ogi, Sado Island, Japan

Shiroyama Concerts

August 19 (Fri)

Ranaei Family & Kodo

August 20 (Sat)

Shukusai - Kodo

Ranaei Family

KO no kai

August 21 (Sun)

Kodo



Believing in the power of the taiko to connect human beings with nature, as well as being a unifying force within communities, this year we return to the roots of the festival as we pursue new ways to live in harmony with the earth.

This Year's Special Guests are the Ranaei Family (Iran), and KO no kai (Japan)

Ranaei Family

Hailing from Iran, the Ranaei Family is a Kurdish family of four. Overcoming many difficulties throughout their country's turbulent history, their music continues to touch the lives of people around the globe regardless of ethnicity or background. Their unique sound stems from the *tanbour*, a Kurdish stringed

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Taking our Energy to the People of Japan

We are now on the northern part of our nationwide tour throughout Japan, currently in Tohoku and heading to Hokkaido. This tour has been a great reminder of the power of the

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instrument that is a staple of classical Persian music. The tanbour is noted throughout Iranian history, appearing in murals that date back as far as 6000 years ago, and it is thought to be the progenitor of all plucked string instruments. Its practice revered and its traditions upheld since ancient times, this sacred instrument is believed to connect music to the soul.

Come experience the stunning tones and profound expression of the tanbour as the Ranaei family make their debut visit to Japan for Earth Celebration 2011.

*Ranaei Family (Iran)***KO no kai**

KO no kai was formed by a group of men who gathered to celebrate Japanese dance in all its glory and help carve the future of the art form. They perform in the *suodori gunbu* style (group dance in plain formal costumes) with a simplicity that fuses the beauty of tradition with contemporary sensibilities.

With a serene beauty yet overwhelming intensity, the KO no kai dance, leap and soar to new heights of expression. The group used Kodo music for an original piece that premiered in 2000 called *Onbashira*, which enjoyed an overwhelming response and an unprecedented number of encore performances. This appearance at EC will mark their first live collaboration with Kodo.

*KO no kai (Japan)**Kodo on the Shiroyama Concert stage*



Earth Celebration

August 19 (Fri)~21 (Sun), 2011

Ogi, Sado Island, Japan

JOIN US!

Shiroyama Concerts

August 19 (Fri) Ranaei Family & Kodo

August 20 (Sat) Shukusai-Kodo, Ranaei Family, KO no kai

August 21 (Sun) Kodo

Artistic Director: Yuichiro Funabashi (Kodo)

This Year's Special Guests

Ranaei Family (Iran), KO no kai (Japan)



Workshops: Hands-on Participation

O-daiko Workshop, Miyake Taiko, Utanya Don Don! (For Students), Hachijo Daiko, Ogi Okesa – Dance & Music (Sado), Kasuga Ondeko (Sado), Japanese Dance Experience with KO no kai, Kazuki Imagai's "Chappa Daisuki" (I Love Chappa), Shinobue with Yasukazu Kano (For Beginners), Ranjo-san's Japanese Flute Making Workshop, Ogi Bamboo Basket Making

Other Events (Free Events, EC-Related Events)

EC Theatre, Sado Performing Arts Around Town, Fringe Events (Free Performances), Harbour Market (Food, drinks, crafts, etc at Ogi Port Park), Ogi Peninsula Bus Tours, Taiko Experience, Sado Takigi Noh Theatre, and more!

Tickets on sale now!

For further details, please visit the official Earth Celebration [website](#).

Helping Japan*continued from page 1*

taiko to bring people together. On May 28, we performed at a [charity concert](#) in Tokyo, and we sincerely thank everyone who came to lend their support and raise funds for the Tohoku Pacific Earthquake disaster area. At our [One Earth Tour](#) concert venues, we are collecting funds for the [RQ Citizens Disaster Relief Network Japan](#).

Our special milestone tour features brand new compositions and special arrangements, combined to show the Kodo of yesteryear, now and tomorrow. We look forward to sharing this programme with Japan as we meet old friends and newcomers on our tour for the remainder of the year. For [highlights](#), [performances](#) [schedules](#) and box office details, please visit our [website](#).

A Note from the Artistic Director

2011 marks our 30th anniversary, and a new beginning. For this journey I want to set sail with simplicity, as little baggage as possible, and with light bodies and souls.

The members who board this ship have been joined by fate and serendipity. Now is the time to reflect on the meaning behind our performances and our ongoing mission of bringing our music from Sado Island to the world.

I want to use this opportunity bring our focus back to “beating a rhythm,” the most primal musical expression. In the first half of the show, I hope the audience will feel the brilliant life force summoned by pure rhythm and power. In the second half, I hope they will experience a more subtle, warm expression of the human spirit.

~ Mitsuru Ishizuka



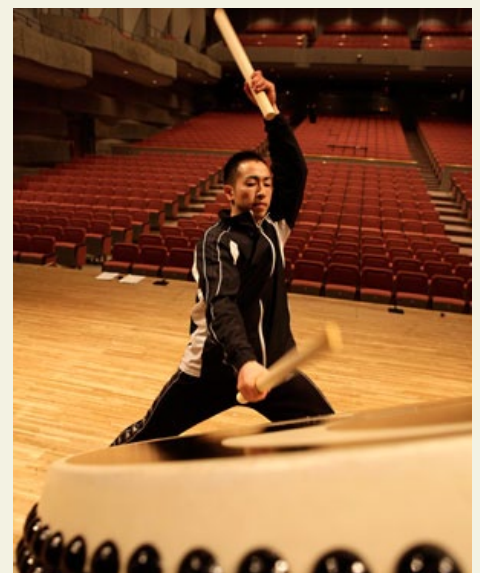
Unloading our truck on the morning of a performance. We need all day to set up all the instruments and lighting, to rehearse and warm up in preparation for an evening performance.



Putting the approx. 400 kilo odaiko on its stand



Masaru Tsuji checks the positioning from a distance as members spike the stage



Tsuyoshi Maeda warms up

Kodo 30th Anniversary One Earth Tour

Japan
May - July 2011

Programme

Honoka **NEW**

Tomoe

Stride

Jingi no Taiko

Matoka Saso, Momotsuzuri **NEW**

Miyake

Harukanaru Mine **NEW**

Sora

Ogi Oiwake

O-daiko

Yatai-bayashi

Artistic Director

Mitsuru Ishizuka

Performers

Yoshikazu Fujimoto

Chieko Kojima

Yoko Fujimoto

Motofumi Yamaguchi

Eiichi Saito*

Tomohiro Mitome

Kazuki Imagai

Masaru Tsuji

Yosuke Oda

Shogo Yoshii

Kenta Nakagome

Tsuyoshi Maeda

Eri Uchida

Mariko Omi

Rai Tateishi

Maya Minowa

* Cast Change Announcement

On May 17, Eiichi Saito injured his left leg during a performance and consequently will not be performing for the remainder of the May-July tour so he can concentrate on his medical treatment. Thank you for your understanding.



Opening number "Honoka"



Lively "Sora"

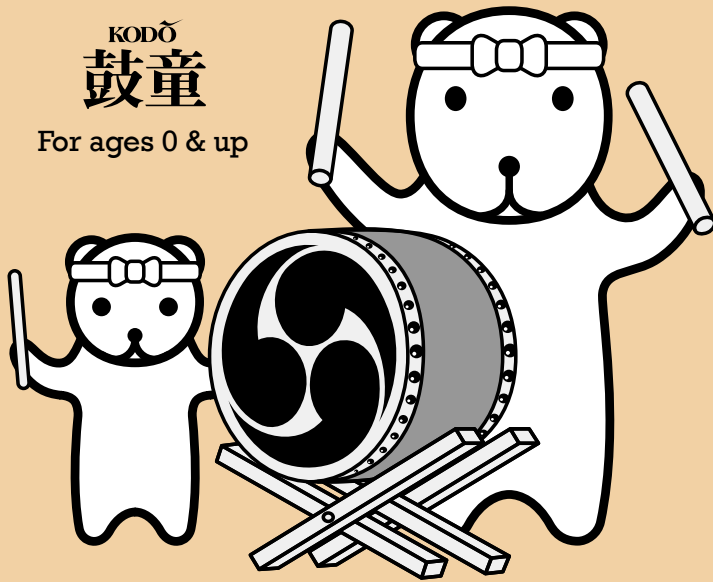


The cast of 16 thanks the audience

Concert for KIDS

KODŌ
鼓童

For ages 0 & up



Announcing Sony Music Foundation Concerts for Kids featuring Kodo

For mothers who want their children to hear the sound of Kodo, and for fathers who want to watch Kodo with their kids, here's just what you've been waiting for!

In a collaborative project with the [Sony Music Foundation](#), Kodo will perform two special concerts: one with a program that preschoolers can enjoy with their family members, and another with a special program for school children of all ages.

December 14 (Wed) Children's Castle, Aoyama Theatre, Tokyo • Tickets on sale now.
For further details, please visit the Kodo [website](#)

Kodo Dadan & Amaterasu Encore Performances

We are pleased announce that we will be holding encore performances of the highly acclaimed Kodo *Dadan* and *Amaterasu* productions. Further details will be announced at a later date. We hope you will join us for these special performances.

Kodo "Dadan" 2012 Performances

Directed by Tamasaburo Bando
February: Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris, France. July: Japan (Tokyo, Kanagawa, Kumamoto, Kyoto)

"Amaterasu" 2013 Performances

Collaboration with Tamasaburo Bando
July – October: Japan (Tokyo, Niigata (Sado Island), Fukuoka, and Kyoto)



Kabuki actor Tamasaburo Bando with Kodo in "Amaterasu." Tamasaburo is a Kabuki luminary specializing in "onnagata" (female roles), and also an acclaimed dancer, artistic director, film actor and director.

This performance, held in 2006 & 2007, featured Tamasaburo playing Amaterasu, the sun goddess of Japan's founding myth, and Kodo performers as the musicians and other characters of the story. For a review on the debut performance of "Amaterasu," please read the Summer 2006 issue of the [Kodo Beat](#).

Spring on Sado

As we've seen in past issues of *eNews*, each of Sado's four seasons has its own strong character and this is especially true of Spring. When the cold winds of winter give way to warm breezes, and the mountainsides begin to flush pale green, it is a time of much excitement and activity throughout the island.

Agriculture

Rice farmers are busy preparing their fields, some with modern equipment and others with traditional hand tools. When it is time to plant, entire families can often be seen out in the flooded paddies, pushing bright shoots into the soil.

In last July's issue of *eNews*, we described how Kodo Apprentices cultivate rice at the [Kodo Apprentice Centre](#), and have learned about a 1000 year-old spiral rice planting style that is still practiced in the village of Kitaushima on Sado Island. This tradition, and related ceremonies, is called "Sado no Kuruma-daue", and has been designated an "Important Intangible Folk-Cultural Property". For more information, click [here](#) to download last July's issue.



Planting rice in Kuninaka, Sado's fertile central region



Visitors stroll among kanzo (wild day lilies) in Sado's northern coastal region

As in much of Japan, many households on Sado Island keep a vegetable garden and at this time of the year the rows are filling with cabbage, turnips, carrots, onions and more. Some of these vegetables are eaten fresh, while others will be pickled and preserved for use during the winter.

Flowers

Sado's cherry trees have blossomed and faded by May but up on the mountain tops of the Osado Skyline many Spring wildflowers can still be found, including *katakuri* (dogtooth violet) and *yukiwariso* (hepatica). If you take one of the buses from the Ryotsu ferry terminal up to the Skyline trails, you can hike the ridge trails and enjoy both the flowers and amazing views of the island. The highest point on Mt Kinpoku is 1172 meters,



Yukiwariso (hepatica) on the Osado Skyline



Ajisai (hydrangeas) at Rengebuji Temple

so even though it is Spring it is not unusual to discover patches of snow in some places.

Another wildflower that is common on Sado Island is the day lily known as *kanzo*. These dramatic yellow blossoms appear from May to June especially near Onogame and Futatsugame, where they cover the hillsides in large fields.

Spring on Sado

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In addition to many wild varieties, beautiful cultivated flowers may be found at many of Sado's temples. In May, Chokokuji Temple is famous for its *botan* (peonies), and in June, Rengebuji Temple is full of *ajisai* (hydrangeas).

Traditional Celebrations

For centuries, the people of Sado Island have observed the passing of Winter into Spring with drumming, song and dance, most notably with the *onidaiko* or Demon Drumming. This drumming dance is also called *ondeko*: both its names are derived from *oni* (demon) and *taiko* (drum). Today, there are over 100 *onidaiko* groups on Sado and every year they make their way door-to-door in their villages driving off evil spirits and praying for a good growing season and bountiful harvest. Residents open their houses and offer food and drink to the demon dancers, and to the drummers, flute players, and onlookers who accompany them.

While all forms of *onidaiko* include masked demons dancing to a drum, many variations have developed over time. In one area in the north of Sado, for example, the *onidaiko* features an old man who tosses out beans as a way of sewing good luck, while in the



Onidaiko (demon drumming) is performed in villages throughout Sado Island every Spring to drive away evil spirits and bring good luck.



A Takigi Noh performance by torchlight

southern region one area has a dance which involves two demons. In the central part of Sado, there is a style where one demon dances with two lions (*shishi*), which is known as *Shishi Oni Daiko*.

Spring is also the time when Sado's many Noh theaters begin their annual season of performances, which usually run until October. As with many traditional performing arts on Sado Island, numerous variations have



Two professional Noh and Kyogen performances with contemporary dance will be held prior to this year's Earth Celebration

developed but the form called *Takigi Noh*, performed in torchlight on stages adjacent to shrines, are especially popular. Virtually all of the actors and musicians are members of the local community whose families have often been involved with Noh for many generations.

To learn more about Noh on Sado Island, please visit the [Sado Tourism Association's website](#).

With so much natural beauty and many rich cultural traditions, Spring on Sado Island is a very special time of year. We hope you will come and visit some day soon!

~ Tam Stewart



Takigi Noh stage on Sado Island



Kodo Performance Schedule 2011-2012

KODO 30TH ANNIVERSARY - ONE EARTH TOUR

June-July: [Japan](#)

Yamagata, Akita, Aomori, Hokkaido, Fukui, Toyama, Niigata, Ishikawa, Hyogo, Miyagi

September-November: [Japan](#)

Kyoto, Hyogo, Shizuoka, Gifu, Kanagawa, Ehime, Wakayama, Okayama, Tottori, Kagawa, Yamaguchi, Hiroshima, Shiga, Mie, Fukuoka, Oita, Shimane, Saga, Miyazaki, Kagoshima, Kumamoto, Nagasaki, 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

For up-to-date schedules and box office details, please visit our [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

Shiroyama Concerts with special guests the Ranaei Family (Iran) and KO no kai (Japan)

SOLO & SMALL GROUP PROJECTS, WORKSHOPS, NEWS & INFORMATION

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



Join Kodo to celebrate the 60th birthday of Akio Tsumura of Miyakejima Kamitsuki Mikoshi Taiko in a special concert on July 3. Advance tickets only, so don't be late!

Akio Tsumura 60th Birthday Performance
Matsurine on July 3, 2011 at 18:30 at
Aoyama Sogetsu Hall, Tokyo

Details at www.miyaketaiko.com/en/ or on
the Kodo website mid-June



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

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

- 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

Please join Kodo on Sado Island for
our 3-day festival [Earth Celebration](#)
this summer! August 19-21, Ogi,
Sado Island, Japan



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*In the wake of disaster,
Kodo started the Heartbeat
Project, a multifaceted
undertaking designed to
support relief efforts and the
people of the regions affected
by the Tohoku Pacific
Earthquake.*

*We are making new
recordings and participating
in charity concerts, fund-
raising events, etc. Thank
you for your continued
support. For updates, please
visit our [website](#).*

KODŌ

New Album:
Kodo Akatsuki



Wild azalea on the Osado Skyline

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