

Paris *Dadan* Concerts Sold Out, Anniversary Tour Continues

We are happy to report that we welcomed four full houses to our foreign debut performances of *Dadan at Théâtre du Châtelet* in Paris last month. Thank you very much to everyone who traveled from near and far to attend the concerts. Kodo certainly hopes to be back in Paris again soon after such a heartfelt welcome.

In February, the *Kodo 30th Anniversary One Earth Tour* in Europe was also very well received, with two days of sold-out concerts in our familiar stops of Munich and Dublin, and brand new audiences in Essen and Mannheim. After a week in Paris for *Dadan*, where 7 tour members performed and the remaining 6 kept moving with TV appearances and fitness (sightseeing and cultural appreciation included), we held five concerts at the prestigious KKL in Luzern, whose feel-good sound was a great welcome back after a four-year absence from the beautiful city.

Here are some photos from the *Dadan* Concerts in Paris by photographer Takashi Okamoto.

To all our readers in Japan, and those planning to visit this summer: we hope you'll join the *Dadan* cast for their *domestic tour in July*, and also a special performance at *Earth Celebration*



Kodo "Dadan" Concerts at Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris

2012. (Surprise! You heard it here first.)

On March 11, we will remember the giant earthquake and tsunami that devastated Northern Japan one year ago. We continue to pray for the swift recovery of the Tohoku region. We hope our domestic tours and festival Earth Celebration will bring visitors

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to Japan and we will spend this year doing what we can to support the rebuilding of the affected areas through our [Heartbeat Project](#). Please join us as we remember the tragedy and think further about how we can help.

Tamasaburo Bando (pictured top left) returns to Paris with Kodo for “Dadan”



— Kodo 30th Anniversary One Earth Tour 2012 Europe —

ON TOUR NOW!

March: Switzerland, Italy, France, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg

For schedules, see [Page 7](#)



Programme

Sakaki
Stride
Chonlima
Miyake
Monochrome
Jang-Gwara
Sora
Kumo no Namiji
O-daiko
Yatai-bayashi

Artistic Director
Mitsuru Ishizuka

Performers

Kazuki Imagai
Masaru Tsuji
Yuichiro Funabashi
Mitsuru Ishizuka
Yosuke Oda
Kenzo Abe
Masayuki Sakamoto
Shogo Yoshii
Kenta Nakagome
Tsuyoshi Maeda
Eri Uchida
Yosuke Kusa
Maya Minowa

Photo Album: Masayuki Sakamoto

Masayuki Sakamoto is currently on tour with Kodo in Europe. Nicknamed “Star” at Kodo, Masayuki is often the leader of upbeat pieces on stage, and is featured throughout the current tour’s [promotion video](#). He was one of the performers chosen for the [Kodo Dadan Concerts](#) in Paris last month, and has been a consistent member of the cast since its making and premier in 2009. On the current One Earth Tour, Masayuki is taking center-stage in *Miyake*, playing the 2nd solo position on tour for the first time. Masayuki is often remembered for his high-speed drumming solos and charisma on stage, which both escalate in synch with the tempo.

Off stage, Masayuki recently bought a camera and is enjoying taking photos on tour and at events. He often organizes social get-togethers for his peers and juniors on Sado and he wants to travel abroad more on his own in the future. He speaks quickly in general and is always fast to greet people as well. Perhaps this inherent speed is what fuels his drumsticks, too?

Here is a selection of his snaps from the *Kodo 30th Anniversary One Earth Tour* in Europe & *Dadan* in Paris with captions.

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



Masayuki Sakamoto



Maya on ice with Yosuke Oda in front of the theater in Copenhagen



With Peter Martin Fogh and Satsuki Inoue, members of our Denmark concert committee formed by Seido Daiko



Ready to fly from Dublin to Paris

Photo Album
continued from page 3



Top: Maya finds a new friend at a German roadside stop, three Dadan lads sightseeing in Paris, and Tsuyoshi tuning a shime-daiko drum.

Middle: Stage managers Dobashi and Masafumi with technical director Luc, and truck driver Petten with the tour truck



Dublin, Ireland



The cast of *Dadan* on arrival in Paris, outside *Théâtre du Châtelet*

Kodo Cultural Foundation Becomes a Public Interest Corporation

A Message from Makoto Shimazaki, Chairman, Kodo Cultural Foundation

Recently the [Kodo Cultural Foundation](#) was authorized by Niigata Prefecture as a Public Interest Corporation and its registration on November 1, 2011, marked the beginning of a new era.

Exactly forty years ago, when we founded Sado no Kuni Ondekoza, our aim was to create a place to study traditional culture, such as the performing arts that remain in abundance on [Sado Island](#). To share those activities both in Japan and abroad, we started playing taiko and touring, and that led to the birth of “Kodo.”

The Kodo Cultural Foundation was established in 1997 as a means to share the experiences Kodo had accumulated to benefit the community through social education and local development programs. Thus far the projects spearheaded by the foundation include holding [Kodo Juku workshops](#), producing [Earth Celebration](#), running “[Friends of Kodo](#),” the [Kodo Apprentice Centre](#), and the [Sado Island Taiko Centre](#), as well as carrying out research and studies about traditional culture.

Henceforth, the foundation will continue to pursue and expand activities that nurture creative, capable people who will play an active role in our global society. Our home of Sado will remain at the heart of these activities as we learn from the nature and the people of the island, working together with locals to develop the region. Furthermore, we will share the attractions of Sado Island with



both Japan and the world through culture and tourism promotion and international exchange. Our intention is to use specific, continual activities to reinvigorate regions that are affected by an ever-decreasing birthrate, aging population, and a lack of next-generation leaders.

I sincerely hope for your continued support and encouragement in the years ahead.

Top: Kodo's labor of love, these two handmade taiko were named “Spuddy” & “Miss Piggy” by popular vote. The giant drums took the stage at Earth Celebration's 20th Anniversary Shiroshima Concerts in 2007 when they were completed, and year-round visitors can play them when they visit the Sado Island Taiko Centre.

Bottom: Onidaiko (demon drumming) and shishimai (lion dance) are amongst the many traditional arts researched by the Kodo Cultural Foundation.

Kodo's Founding Members to Hold Long-Season Performances on Sado Island



Yoshikazu Fujimoto, Chieko Kojima, Yoko Fujimoto and Motofumi Yamaguchi came together on Sado Island connected by the performing arts when they joined Kodo's antecedent group *Sado no Kuni Onedekoza*, and these four were among the founding members of Kodo. These performers will form the heart of special concerts on Sado Island, filled with a deep gratitude for Sado and made possible by Kodo's three decades of activities. In the various seasons of 2012, come to Sado for a special experience, away from the city and everyday life.

Schedule:

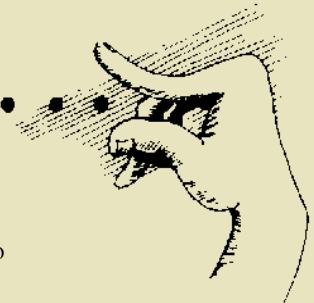
Spring: April 27 (Fri) - May 6 (Sun) 9 performances total
[Tickets on sale now](#). (No performance on May 1)

Summer: July 6 (Fri) - 16 (Mon) 10 performances total.
 (TBC)

Autumn: October 12 (Fri) - 21 (Sun) 9 performances total.
 (TBC)

Accommodation packages & tours for these performances are available for visitors to Sado Island. See our [website](#) for details and inquiries.

in brief...



[Hanayui and Yoshikazu Fujimoto](#) are currently on tour in the USA. Afterwards, three members (Yoko Fujimoto, Yoshikazu Fujimoto, and Mitsue Kinjo) will join taiko ensemble [Nagata Shachu](#) for a collaboration in [Toronto](#), while Chieko Kojima returns to Japan for solo projects in [Aomori](#) and [Kanagawa](#).

A new DVD of a Kodo and [Blue Man Group in Tokyo](#) collaboration for Japan's WOWOW network is on sale now. Please see our [website](#) for details.



New junior members of our ensemble:
 (from left) Yuta, Yosuke, Akiko, and Tetsumi

In February, four graduates from the [Kodo Apprentice Centre](#) were welcomed as junior members to the [Kodo ensemble](#). They are Akiko Ando (20) from Akita, Tetsumi Hanaoka (20) from Tokyo, Yosuke Inoue (24) from Nara, and Yuta Sumiyoshi (20) from Kagawa. We hope you'll cheer them on as they strive over the next year to become full-fledged Kodo performers.

Also, we are pleased to announce that 2011 junior members Rai Tateishi & Maya Minowa have become full-fledged Kodo members this year. Shogo Komatsuzaki will spend a second year as a junior member.



Kodo Performance Schedule 2012

KODO 30TH ANNIVERSARY - ONE EARTH TOUR 2012

March: [Europe](#)

Switzerland, Italy, France, Netherlands,
Belgium, Luxembourg



KODO ONE EARTH TOUR 2012: LEGEND

May - June: [Japan](#)

Tokyo, Saitama, Nagano, Osaka, Wakayama, Aichi, Mie, Kyoto, Hyogo,
Kagawa, Kochi, Ehime, Okayama, Gifu

September - October: Japan (Details TBA Spring 2012)

Niigata, Iwate, Yamagata, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Shizuoka, Aichi, Shiga,
Osaka, Hyogo, Tottori, Yamaguchi, Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Kagoshima,
Miyazaki, Nagano

KODO DADAN CONCERTS 2012

July: [Japan](#)

Tokyo, Kanagawa, Aichi, Kumamoto, Kyoto

EARTH CELEBRATION 2012

August 17 (Fri) - 19 (Sun): Sado Island, Japan (Details TBA May 2012)

Shiroyama Concerts with special guest shamisen player [Hiromitsu](#)
[Agatsuma](#), & a unique version of *Dadan* directed by Tamasaburo Bando

KODO & TAIKOZ IN CONCERT - AUSTRALIA TOUR

September: Canberra, Melbourne, Newcastle, Sydney. (Further dates
TBA)

SOLO & SMALL GROUP PROJECTS, SPECIAL EVENTS, WORKSHOPS, NEWS & INFORMATION

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

Kodo 30th Anniversary One Earth Tour 2012

~ **EUROPE** ~
March

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

- March 2: Montreux, Switzerland
- March 3: Montreux, Switzerland
- March 6: Milan, Italy
- March 7: Milan, Italy
- March 9: Metz, France
- March 10: Roubaix, France
- March 13: Amsterdam, Netherlands
- March 14: Apeldoorn, Netherlands
- March 16: Antwerp, Belgium
- March 17: Antwerp, Belgium
- March 19: Rotterdam, Netherlands
- March 20: Eindhoven, Netherlands
- March 22: Luxembourg, Luxembourg
- March 23: Luxembourg, Luxembourg
- March 24: Oostende, Belgium
- March 26: Brussels, Belgium



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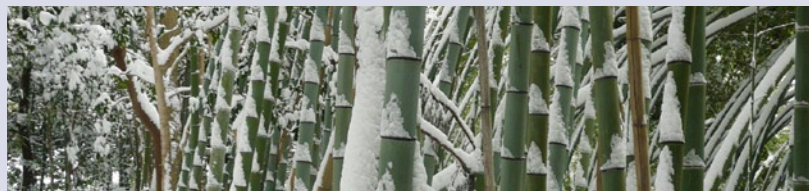


In the wake of disaster, Kodo started the Heartbeat Project, a multifaceted undertaking designed to support relief efforts and the people of the regions affected by the Tohoku Pacific Earthquake.

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



Snow makes bamboo look like a Kodo costume.

Resources

[Kodo Homepage](#)

[Kodo on Facebook](#)

[Kodo Tour and Performance Schedules](#)

[Kodo on YouTube](#)

[Kodo CD Listening Booth](#)

[Kodo Bravia Promotion Video](#)

[Friends of Kodo](#)

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

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