

Here, There, and Everywhere

Greetings from Sado Island! Our spring tours are now on the road in Japan, and the members remaining on Sado Island are teaching at the Kodo Apprentice Centre, rehearsing for upcoming tours and preparing for our summer festival Earth Celebration. The cast, based around our distinguished members, has just completed the spring season of [Kodo Special Performances on Sado Island](#), which ran until May 6. If you didn't make it here to see the concerts this time, perhaps you can join us on July 13-21 for the summer series of these unique performances?

The cast of the [Kodo One Earth Tour 2013: Legend](#) is in the first week of the final leg of this tour in Japan in May and June. The grand finale will be four concerts in Asakusa, Tokyo. Have a look at page 4 for ways and ideas to enjoy both the Asakusa area and our performances there next month! The School-Workshop Performance tour is also on the road now giving performances around Japan, some of which are open to the general public. For details about upcoming small-ensemble concerts and events, please visit our website and scroll down on the [top page](#).

In this issue, we have included information on our next collaboration projects: "Amaterasu" with Tamasaburo Bando and Harei Aine, and Earth Celebration 2013's Shiroyama Concerts with Hiromitsu Agatsuma. We look forward to seeing many of you soon at a theater, special event performance, or on Sado Island this spring and summer.



Tamasaburo Bando as "Amaterasu"

"Amaterasu"

Musical dance play "Amaterasu" returns this year with a brand new cast. The production features glorious dancing by [Tamasaburo Bando](#) as the sun goddess Amaterasu, and Kodo performers playing taiko, koto harps, flutes, and singing as they depict the

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Amaterasu

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gods who appear in this well-known Japanese myth.

Performances for the First Time in Six Years with a Brand New Cast

“Amaterasu” was first performed in 2006 at Tokyo’s Setagaya Public Theater and Kyoto’s Minami-za Kabuki Theater to commemorate Kodo’s 25th anniversary. Encore performances were held in 2007 at Tokyo’s Kabuki-za. In 2013, the production returns with a dynamic new cast.

This time **Yosuke Oda** (Tokyo, Kyoto performances) and **Mitsuru Ishizuka** (Fukuoka performances) will tackle the lead role alongside sun goddess Amaterasu, portraying the god Susano’o. **Shogo Yoshii**, who has honed his skills through collaborations with dance and music in Japan and abroad, will take the reigns as music director. In this season of “Amaterasu,” the performers who were young newcomers in the original production six years ago will become the main essence of the new performance.



Mitsuru Ishizuka



Yosuke Oda



Shogo Yoshii

Special Appearance as Ameno-uzume Harei Aine (Former Takarazuka Revue Male Role Star)

Joining the myriad gods portrayed by Kodo, former Takarazuka Revue performer **Harei Aine** will appear as Ameno-uzume, who dances with all her might in front of the cave of the sun goddess. This will be Ms. Aine’s first time to work with Tamasaburo Bando and Kodo.

Harei Aine joined the Takarazuka Revue in 1997. She stood out right from her debut as a good-looking Hanagumi male role performer, appearing and flourishing in numerous works including “Maihime,” “Side Story: The Rose of Versailles,” “Gubijin,” and “Phantom.” Ms. Aine was the male role star of the highly appraised operetta company, embodying both the tradition and refinement of the Takarazuka Revue. She has brilliant expressiveness and outstanding acting abilities. In October 2012, she retired from the Revue to the regret of many, and just as she set off on a new path, she encountered this production of “Amaterasu.”



Special Guest Harei Aine will perform the role of “Ameno-uzume”

We hope you will take the opportunity to visit Japan and one of the three cities on our tour to see “Amaterasu.” We will share comments from the cast in the next issue, so please stay tuned!

Rolex Japan Presents “Amaterasu”

Appearing:

Tamasaburo Bando,
Kodo (Eiichi Saito (Tokyo), Tomohiro Mitome, Masaru Tsuji,
Yuichiro Funabashi (Fukuoka/Kyoto), Mitsuru Ishizuka (Fukuoka),
Yosuke Oda (Tokyo/Kyoto), Kenzo Abe, Masayuki Sakamoto,
Shogo Yoshii, Kenta Nakagome, Tsuyoshi Maeda, Eri Uchida,
Mariko Omi, Yosuke Kusa (Tokyo), Rai Tateishi (Fukuoka, Kyoto),
Maya Minowa, Shogo Komatsuzaki, Akiko Ando, Yosuke Inoue,
Yuta Sumiyoshi, Tetsumi Hanaoka)

Special Appearance:

Harei Aine (Former Takarazuka Revue male role star)

July 4 (Thu) - 28 (Sun)
Akasaka ACT Theater, Minato Ward, Tokyo
Sep. 5 (Thu) - 29 (Sun)
Hakataza Theater, Fukuoka City
Oct. 5 (Sat) - 27 (Sun)
Minami-za Kabuki Theater, Kyoto City

For detailed schedules and box office details, please see our [website](#).

*Kodo cast is subject to change

“Japanese Music: An Evolution” Earth Celebration 2013

Since 1988, Kodo has held an annual music festival called “[Earth Celebration](#)” (EC), produced in cooperation with Sado City. EC has been a venue for us to invite artists we have met in our travels back home to Sado Island to engage in unprecedented musical collaborations. Under the theme “Tataku” (to beat a rhythm), the most primal human expression, and set against the rich natural splendor of Sado, EC seeks an alternative global culture through musical and cultural collaborations with artists from around the world. This year will mark the festival’s 26th year.

At this year’s Shiroshima Concerts, we are pleased to present a two-night music project with shamisen player [Hiromitsu Agatsuma](#) who collaborated with Kodo for the first time at last year’s EC. With Agatsuma we found common ground pursuing the intricacies of Japanese music with its distinctive pauses and rhythms. This summer Agatsuma brings a massive original composition in three movements, posing the Kodo + Agatsuma Project with the challenge of further evolution using this formidable line-up.



Tsugaru shamisen player Hiromitsu Agatsuma (right) jamming with Masayuki Sakamoto (left) at EC 2012. This year, Kodo and Agatsuma will take their collaboration to new heights!

The opening-night concert will be a Kodo “[Dadan](#)” EC 2013 Special performance. With an outdoor screen being brought into the venue, we hope to add an enhanced sense of drama to

start the festivities.

Join us and experience the once-in-a-lifetime sound of Earth Celebration.



Embracing the energy and passion of traditional Japanese festivals

EC 2013

“Japanese Music: An Evolution”

Shiroshima Concerts (Titles TBC)

August 23 (Fri) Kodo “Dadan” EC 2013 Special

August 24 (Sat) “Sosei” (Genesis)

Kodo + Hiromitsu Agatsuma Project vol. 1

August 25 (Sun) “Shukusai”

Kodo + Hiromitsu Agatsuma Project vol. 2

Advance tickets (2 and 3-day passes are also available)

Aug. 23 (Fri) and 24 (Sat) 4,700 yen each,

Aug. 25 (Sun) 5,200 yen

Details of EC 2013 will be available in mid-May on the [EC website](#). Ticket sales and workshop applications commence June 1. Follow [EC on Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for updates!

Come to See Kodo in Asakusa!



We hope you'll come and enjoy this fabulous area in Tokyo before and after our final domestic performances of "Kodo One Earth Tour 2013: Legend" in Asakusa this June! Here is our own special list of some places to go and things to see in Asakusa.

First, mark our Asakusa performance details in your calendar:

Kodo One Earth Tour 2013: Legend

June 6 (Thu) - 9 (Sun)

Asakusa Public Hall, Taito Ward, Tokyo

Doors Open: 13:30 / Start: 14:00

S-seats 7,000 yen, A-seats 5,000 yen.

All seats reserved.

Inquiries: tvk Ticket Counter

Tel. 0570-00-3117

Asakusa Public Hall

Asakusa Public Hall is our concert venue for our June performances in Tokyo. In front of the hall, there is a section called "Star's Square." Here, you will see handprints and autographs of actors, rakugo comic storytellers, singers and entertainers

related to Asakusa. Our artistic director Tamasaburo Bando's handprint is there, too! There are almost 300 handprints and a full list is available at the hall. Each one is an actual-sized print, so it's fun to put your hand in all the famous ones on display.

<http://asakusa-koukaidou.net/>

Ride the Panda Bus

The Panda Bus is very convenient for sightseeing around Asakusa. It is a free, hourly shuttle bus service supported by various companies and shops in Asakusa. The bus runs around its loop in two directions stopping at famous tourist spots along the way. On board, you can pick up a "Panda Bus Passport" which contains discount coupons to use at selected shops. If you're lucky, the panda might give you a wink as it goes by! This bus is decorated with the information about our performances so keep an eye out for it and enjoy the ride! For more information, including the route map and bus schedule, please check this website: <http://www.pandabus.net/>

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Top Left: Asakusa's historic Sensoji Temple and nearby modern icon Tokyo Skytree
Left and Bottom Left: The Panda Bus provides free rides for visitors and is helping promote our concerts

Bottom Right: Asakusa is home to Hanayashiki, Japan's oldest amusement park



Come to see Kodo in Asakusa!

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Fun and Excitement at Asakusa Hanayashiki

Hanayashiki is Japan's oldest amusement park, which opened in 1853. It advertises itself as a "nostalgic Showa Era amusement park," and it really does take you back to yesteryear. Ride the oldest and first Japanese-built roller coaster and good old famous merry-go-round, then go up Bee Tower for a great view over the Asakusa area. This place makes adults feel like children again. If someone has to stay at home with your kids while you attend our performance, why not have them take the kids to Hanayashiki instead? By the way, Hanayashiki has really cute retro souvenirs, too!

A Taste of Sado at "Datcha"

(Recommended by performer Tetsumi Hanaoka's father)

Enjoy a taste of Sado at Datcha, a rare Japanese-style bar that serves many kinds of sake from breweries on Sado Island and a range of Sado cuisine using many ingredients fresh from the island. Why not see the performance, drink some sake from Sado and make it a "Sado-themed day" in Tokyo? Amongst the patrons, you are bound to find Sado Islanders who live in Tokyo and people who love Sado. Of course, the owner is from Sado, too.

<http://da-cha.net/>

A Trip to Brazil at Churrascaria Que bom!

(Recommended by Yasuko Honma, Kodo Cultural Foundation)
When I think of summer in Asakusa, the "Samba Carnival" springs to mind! In fact, I took part in it when I was a member of a percussion group in my college days. Of course, this carnival town has a great Brazilian restaurant. Huge grilled meat skewers are brought to each table and the meat is shaved off right onto your plate. At Que bom, sometimes they screen live soccer games and they often have live music. Come along to enjoy Brazilian cocktails and immerse yourself in their great Brazilian atmosphere.



"Star's Square" outside Asakusa Public Hall is a collection of handprints and autographs of famous entertainers



Our June Tokyo concert venue, Asakusa Public Hall

Meal Coupon and Tokyo Skytree Information

You can purchase special coupons with your concert tickets for meals in Asakusa or visits to Tokyo Skytree. If you already have your concert ticket, you can purchase just the meal coupons and Tokyo Skytree & Asakusa guided tour tickets by themselves. For details, see our [website](#).



For your post-concert meal in Asakusa, enjoy a taste of Brazil at Que Bom (left) or a taste of Sado Island at "Datcha" (right)

Kodo Special Performances on Sado Island: Summer

Last year we launched the popular “Kodo Special Performances on Sado Island.” This year we are holding another series of these concerts on Sado at Shukunegi Community Hall and we aim to make the program even better!

The concerts are centered around Kodo’s distinguished members, who formed the foundations of Kodo today when they came together on Sado Island, connected by the performing arts, and joined Kodo’s antecedent group *Sado no Kuni Onedekoza* decades ago. These special performances are filled with deep gratitude for Sado.

Come and thoroughly enjoy an “escape from your daily life” and the summer season on Sado Island with Kodo.

[Summer] July 13 (Sat) - 21 (Sun)

Shukunegi Community Hall, Ogi Area, Sado Island, Niigata
Appearing: Yoshikazu Fujimoto, Chieko Kojima, Motofumi Yamaguchi, Masami Miyazaki, Rai Tateishi, others.

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



Experience Taiko & Sea Kayaking, Enjoy Hot Springs & Lunch

We are pleased to announce an offer that lets you experience sea kayaking and taiko drumming, followed by lunch and a soak in a hot spring on the Ogi Peninsula on Sado Island. This area is famous for its clear waters, beautiful coastal roads, and diving spots. We hope you will visit Sado Island and enjoy these activities that were a hit at Earth Celebration 2012. (Please note that explanation and guidance will be offered in Japanese only.)



Dates: Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays between Apr. 20 (Sat) - Sep. 29 (Sun) (except Aug. 24 (Sat) & 25 (Sun))

Fee: Adults 7,000 yen, Children 6,000 yen

Application Deadline: 3 days before date of use.

Capacity: 20 people (Deal requires a minimum of 2 participants)

For further details and inquiries, please visit our [website](#).

Kodo Performance Schedule

2013 - 2014

KODO ONE EARTH TOUR 2013: LEGEND

FINAL PERFORMANCES IN JAPAN

May - June: [Japan](#)

Ibaraki, Shizuoka, Aichi, Nagano, Kyoto, Osaka, Toyama, Niigata, Kanagawa, Gunma, Saitama, Tokyo

SCHOOL WORKSHOP-PERFORMANCE TOUR IN JAPAN

May-June: Niigata, Shimane, Ehime, Fukuoka

ROLEX JAPAN PRESENTS “AMATERASU”

Tamasaburo Bando & Kodo collaboration

July 4-28: Tokyo **Tickets On Sale Now!**

September 5 -29: Fukuoka Tickets on Sale from July 20

October 5 -27: Kyoto Tickets on Sale from July 15

EARTH CELEBRATION 2013

Annual performing arts festival hosted by Sado Island and Kodo. This year features a reunion performance with Tsugaru Shamisen player Hiromitsu Agatsuma and an enhanced outdoor version of Kodo “Dadan.”

August 23 (Fri) - 25 (Sun): Sado Island, Japan (Details TBA May 2013)

KODO ONE EARTH TOUR 2013 (New production, title and details TBA)

November - December: Japan

Sado Island, Aichi, Osaka, Okayama, Niigata, Kanagawa, Tokyo (TBC)

2014

NEW KODO ONE EARTH TOUR 2014: LEGEND

January - March: Europe (Details to be announced soon.)

SOLO & SMALL GROUP PROJECTS,

SPECIAL EVENTS, WORKSHOPS,

NEWS & INFORMATION

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

Kodo One Earth Tour 2013: Legend

~ JAPAN ~

May - June

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

- May 8: Toride, Ibaraki
- May 10: Mishima, Shizuoka
- May 12: Toyokawa, Aichi
- May 16: Matsumoto, Nagano
- May 18: Kyoto City **SOLD OUT**
- May 19: Takatsuki, Osaka
- May 23: Toyama City
- May 25: Shibata, Niigata
- May 26: Minami-uonuma, Niigata
- May 28: Yokosuka, Kanagawa
- May 29: Sagami-hara, Kanagawa
- June 1: Kanra, Gunma
- June 2: Saitama City
- June 6 - 9: Taito Ward, Tokyo



Kodo One Earth Tour 2013: Legend
Akiko Ando (left) and Masami Miyazaki (right) in “Tsukimachi”

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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

Latest Album:
Kodo Akatsuki



Multi-layered weeping cherry tree in late April

Resources

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[Kodo on Facebook](#)

[Kodo Tour and Performance Schedules](#)

[Kodo on YouTube](#)

[Kodo CD Listening Booth](#)

[Kodo Bravia Promotion Video](#)

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

Contacts

Performances, Workshops, Bookings, and All General Inquiries
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Friends of Kodo
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