



Saturday, January 25, 2025, 8pm
Sunday, January 26, 2025, 3pm
Zellerbach Hall

Kodo *Warabe*

2025 One Earth North America Tour

Performers

Eiichi Saito
Koki Miura
Mizuki Yoneyama
Masayasu Maeda
Kodai Yoshida
Seita Saegusa
Chihiro Watanabe
Taiyo Onoda
Shun Takuma
Kei Sadanari
Moe Niiyama
Jumpei Nonaka
Kazuma Hirosaki
Hana Ogawa

Yuichiro Funabashi, *director*

*Cal Performances is committed to fostering a welcoming, inclusive, and safe environment for all—
one that honors our venues as places of respite, openness, and respect.
Please see the Community Agreements section on our Policies page for more information.*

PROGRAM

Koe

Composed by Yuta Sumiyoshi; dance arranged by Koki Miura (2021)

Miyake

Arranged by Kodo

Niwaka

Composed by Masayasu Maeda (2021)

Hae

Composed by Motofumi Yamaguchi (1982)

Uminari

Composed by Yuta Sumiyoshi (2021)

INTERMISSION

Shinka

Composed by Koki Miura (2021)

Okoshi

Composed by Masayasu Maeda; dance arranged by Koki Miura (2021)

Dokuso

Composed by Reo Kitabayashi (2021)

Inochi

Composed by Ryotaro Leo Ikenaga (2021)

O-daiko

Arranged by Kodo, Kenta Nakagome

Yatai-bayashi

Traditional, arranged by Kodo

The following pieces are based on these regional traditional performing arts:

Koe: Kanatsu-ryu Yanagawa Shishi Odori (Oshu, Iwate)

Miyake: Miyake-jima Kamitsuki Mikoshi Daiko (Miyake Island, Tokyo)

Okoshi: Onidaiko and Shishi (Sado Island, Niigata)

Yatai-bayashi: Chichibu Yatai-bayashi (Chichibu, Saitama)

In Japanese, the word “Kodo” holds a double meaning. It can be translated as “heartbeat,” the primal source of all rhythm. However, our group’s name is written with different characters, which mean “drum” and “child.” This reflects Kodo’s desire to play the drums with the simple heart of a child. For our 40th anniversary in 2021, we created two works based on our name: *Tsuzumi* takes its name and theme from the drum character, and *Warabe* from the child element. *Tsuzumi* was our touring production in 2023 across North America (appearing here in Zellerbach Hall in February of that year), and we are happy to present you now with the continuing production, *Warabe*.

In *Warabe*, Kodo looks to its classic repertoire and aesthetics from the ensemble’s early days. This production blends simple forms of *taiko* expression that celebrate the unique sound, resonance, and physicality synonymous with Kodo—forever children of the drum at heart.

We hope you enjoy this soul-stirring presentation of the rhythm of life. Let your soul dance to the rhythm of life!

Kodo

Exploring the limitless possibilities of the traditional Japanese drum, the *taiko*, Kodo is forging new directions for a vibrant living art form. Since its debut at the Berlin Festival in 1981, Kodo has given over 6,500 performances on all five continents, spending about a third of each year overseas, a third touring in Japan, and a third rehearsing and preparing new material on Sado Island.

Kodo strives to both preserve and reinterpret traditional Japanese performing arts. Beyond this, members on tours and research trips all over the globe have brought back to Sado a kaleidoscope of world music and experiences that now exerts a strong influence on the group’s performances and compositions. Collaborations with other artists and composers extend across the

musical spectrum and Kodo’s lack of preconceptions about its music continues to produce startling new fusion and forms.

Sado Island

Since 1971, Sado Island has been Kodo’s home and the platform from which the group reaches out to the world. With nature’s warm embrace evident in each of her four seasons, Sado is an extraordinary place where traditional ways of life and the island’s indigenous performing arts still thrive today. This island is the fountain of inspiration for Kodo and the guiding force behind the group’s creative lifestyle. The performers’ goal is to find a harmonious balance between people and the natural world. Each time Kodo ventures off the island, the ensemble encounters new people, customs, and traditional performing arts that are ingrained in the lifestyles of each locale. Both similarities and differences prompt Kodo members to pause and reflect upon the importance of the varied and rich cultures that color our world. These life lessons permeate each performer’s skin and become an invisible source of their expression. It is through this process of living, learning, and creating that Kodo cultivates a unique aesthetic and sensitivity, reaching out toward a new world culture rooted in the rich possibilities of a peaceful coexistence between humanity and nature.

Kodo Cultural Foundation

Thanks to the support of many friends, Kodo Cultural Foundation was established in 1997 in order to increase Kodo’s capacity for outreach projects on Sado Island. Its primary mission is to carry out nonprofit activities focused on social education and the notion of giving back to the local community. Kodo Cultural Foundation is committed to the cultural and environmental preservation of Sado Island and oversees many ambitious projects. From the conservation of local habitats to the revitalisation

of rare craft traditions and Noh theaters throughout Sado Island, the highly collaborative foundation supports many vital initiatives. Its activities include holding workshops, planning annual music festival Earth Celebration, creating a research library, managing the Kodo Apprentice Centre and Sado Island Taiko Centre, and carrying out research in the performing arts.

Kodo Apprentice Centre

In a converted schoolhouse in Kakinoura on Sado Island, the young people who will continue and expand on Kodo's traditions are trained, not just in musical technique but also in all matters of body and spirit. Beginning in April, apprentices live communally and train for two years. From this group, probationary members are selected in January of the second year. These chosen few spend one year as junior members, and if they are successful, they then become full Kodo members. Kodo seeks people of all backgrounds who are interested in becoming apprentices, as well as the next generation of Kodo players and staff. Apprentices live communally in the Kodo Apprentice Centre where they learn *taiko*, dance, song, and other traditional arts.

Staff

Tatsuya Shimono, *music advisor*
Yumi Nogami, *voice instructor*
Tatsuo Kudo, *posture and movement instructor*

Kenichi Mashiko (S.L.S.), *lighting designer*
Kei Olivier Furukata, *technical director*
Takeshi Arai, *stage manager*
Kengo Kosugi, *assistant stage manager*

Yui Kamiya, *production manager*
Natsumi Ikenaga and Rena Tsukamoto, *tour managers*
Donnie Keeton, *assistant manager*
Kiyooki Sakai, *physical trainer*
IMG Artists, *international tour management*
Soloshoe Communications, LLC, *publicity*

Takashi Okamoto, *photographer*
Sokichi Sogawa, *promotional video director*
Hiroomi Hattori (COM Works), *promotional artwork*

Special Thanks: Ranjo, Shingo Tokihiro,
Kawachi Wakate, Rengebuji Temple,
Kodo Cultural Foundation

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Kitamaesen Co., Ltd., *planning and production*

For any inquiries, please contact Kodo at:
Kodo Village, 148-1 Ogi Kanetashinden,
Sado, Niigata 952-0611, Japan
Tel: 81.259.86.3630
Email: heartbeat@kodo.or.jp
Website: www.kodo.or.jp
Facebook/X/Instagram: @KodoHeartbeat