



Saturday, February 4, 2023, 8pm  
Sunday, February 5, 2023, 3pm  
Zellerbach Hall

# Kodo One Earth Tour

## *Tsuzumi*

### *Performers*

Eiichi Saito • Jun Jidai • Koki Miura • Ryotaro Leo Ikenaga • Reo Kitabayashi  
Mizuki Yoneyama • Yuta Kimura • Yuki Hirata • Taiyo Onoda • Kei Sadanari  
Moe Niiyama • Jumpei Nonaka • Hana Ogawa

### *Director*

Yuichiro Funabashi

### *Technical Director*

Kei Furukata

### *Lighting Designer*

Kenichi Mashiko (S.L.S.)

### *Stage Managers*

Kazuki Imagai • Yusuke Hayakawa

### *Company Manager*

Yui Kamiya

### *Tour Managers*

Natsumi Ikenaga • Sorami Ikeyama • Minami Sasaki

### *Assistant Manager*

Donnie Keeton

### *International Tour Management*

IMG Artists

### *Music Advisor*

Tatsuya Shimono

### *Voice Instructor*

Yumi Nogami

### *Posture & Movement Instructor*

Tatsuo Kudo

### *Special Thanks*

Ranjo • Shingo Tokihiro • Kawachi Wakate • Rengebuji Temple

### *North America Tour Support*

Asano Taiko U.S., Inc.

### *North America Tour Marketing*

SoloShoe Communications, LLC

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*Funding made possible by the Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation.*

COVID-19: Masking is required inside the auditorium, and is strongly recommended, though not required, for indoor lobby/waiting areas as well as outdoor spaces. Up-to-date vaccination is strongly recommended, though not required for entry. The latest information on Cal Performances' COVID-19 safety policies is available at [calperformances.org/safety](https://calperformances.org/safety).  
Photographing and/or recording this performance is strictly prohibited.

# *Tsuzumi*

*Dyu-Ha*

Composed by Maki Ishii (1981)

*Kono Mine no*

Composed by Yoko Fujimoto (2003)

*Hayashi-bayashi*

Composed by Masayasu Maeda and Yuta Kimura (2019)

*Hitohi*

Composed by Masayasu Maeda; dance arranged by Koki Miura (2019)

*Hayate*

Composed by Ryotaro Leo Ikenaga (2020)

*Zoku*

Composed by Leonard Eto (1989)

## *INTERMISSION*

*Monochrome*

Composed by Maki Ishii (1976)

*Uchoten*

Composed by Yuki Hirata (2019)

*P.P.C.*

Composed by Yuichiro Funabashi, Mitsuru Ishizuka, and Yosuke Oda (2005)

*Ayumi*

Composed by Yuta Sumiyoshi (2020)

*Izumogaku*

Traditional, arranged by Kodo

*O-daiko*

Traditional, arranged by Kodo

*Yatai-bayashi*

Traditional, arranged by Kodo

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

*Hitohi: Onidaiko* (Sado Island, Niigata)

*Hayate: Hachijo Daiko* (Hachijo Island, Tokyo)

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

Our 2021 North America tour was postponed due to the pandemic, so we have been looking forward to sharing this program with you all for a long time. Thank you for your patience and encouragement. We hope today's performance will uplift you and bring you joy.

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.

To commemorate our 40th anniversary in 2021, we created two new touring productions based on our name: *Tsuzumi* takes its name and theme from the drum charac-

ter, and *Warabe* from the child element. *Tsuzumi*, the first work, opens with a very special piece in our ensemble's history that is seldom performed on tour—*Dyu-Ha*. The late Maki Ishii, a modern composer who was introduced to Kodo by conductor Seiji Ozawa, presented this piece to Kodo as a gift to congratulate our ensemble on its debut in 1981. We will perform *Dyu-Ha* on this tour for the first time in North America since 1989. Today's program also features Ishii's masterpiece *Monochrome* and other Kodo signature pieces such as *O-daiko*, *Yatai-bayashi*, and *Zoku*, coupled with new compositions.

Join us as we trace our group's origins back to the beginning, to reflect on our history and reaffirm what continues to shape Kodo today.

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#### DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Kodo One Earth Tour: *Tsuzumi* is the first production in a series of commemorative works we created for Kodo's 40th anniversary celebrations in 2021. The inspiration and theme of this work is our home base, Sado Island. With its lush nature and distinct history, this special place has been the starting point for Kodo's diverse local and international activities for the past four decades. Our projects are constantly guided by three words that underpin our mission—living, learning, creating.

Since early 2020, countless lives have been impacted by the effects of COVID-19. These circumstances have been very difficult for Kodo to navigate as a group, and we are still grappling with concert postponements and cancellations. But we have remained optimistic as we press on with our work, using this time to reflect on our group's history. All of us at Kodo were brought to Sado, this remote island in the Sea of Japan, by the captivating resonant tones of the *taiko*. People on Sado

live in close proximity to nature, which affects and informs their everyday activities. Here, through the wide range of performing arts and festivals held on the island, we can feel the living, breathing origins of all creative pursuits.

The reverberations of *taiko* awaken the power of heaven and earth. Conjured and honed on Sado, Kodo's sound is like no other.

I sincerely hope you'll enjoy this performance and the visceral sound of Kodo's *taiko*. We will give it our absolute all on stage, hoping you feel our joy and gratitude in each and every beat.

*Tsuzumi* is the first of two Kodo 40th-anniversary touring productions; *Warabe* is the second. Together, these works will serve as cornerstones for Kodo's next innovative chapter. Thank you for celebrating our past, present, and future with us through these works.

—Yuichiro Funabashi  
Director/Kodo Ensemble Leader

Exploring the limitless possibilities of the traditional Japanese drum, the *taiko*, Kodo is forging new directions for a vibrant living art-form. Since the group's debut at the Berlin Festival in 1981, Kodo has given over 6,500 performances on all five continents, spending about a third of the year overseas, a third touring in Japan, and a third rehearsing and preparing new material on Sado Island. Kodo strives to both preserve and re-interpret 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 artists' 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 culti-

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

### Call for Support

Kodo's activities have been greatly impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and we need extra support as we navigate the ongoing restrictions and disruptions to our usual touring and events. If you are able to make a donation to help us continue our mission, we will gratefully accept any amount you can spare. Your contribution will help us to continue our ongoing One Earth Tour, so that we can keep connecting people all over the world with the sound of *taiko*.

To make a donation, or for other ways to help, please visit <https://www.kodo.or.jp/en/callforsupport>.

Website: [www.kodo.or.jp](http://www.kodo.or.jp)

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