

HARRIMAN JEWELL S E R I E S

with assistance from
ROSWITHA AND KEN SCHAFFER
presents

KODŌ TSUZUMI

This evening marks Kodo's third appearance with the
Harriman-Jewell Series.

**The Muriel McBrien Kauffman Family Foundation
is the sponsor of our 58th Season.**

7:00 P.M., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2023
HELZBERG HALL
KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI

*Founded by William Jewell College in 1965, Harriman-Jewell Series' commitment to Kansas City
has been to bring the best of the performing arts.*

KODŌ TSUZUMI

Dyu-Ha

Composed by Maki Ishii 1981

Kono Mine no

Composed by Yoko Fujimoto 2003

Hayashi-bayashi

*Composed by Masayasu Maeda,
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 —

To maintain the safety and concentration of both the performers and audience, Kodo strictly prohibits photography, audio or video recordings and the use of phones and any sort of electronic and alarm devices during the performance.

Monochrome
Composed by Maki Ishii 1976

Uchoten
Composed by Yuki Hirata 2019

P.P.C.
Composed by Yuichiro Funabashi, Mitsuru Ishizuka, 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)

Artists appear by arrangement with IMG Artists, LLC, 7 West 54th Street, New York, NY 10019
212-994-3500

As an auxiliary organization of William Jewell College, the Harriman-Jewell Series adheres to the anti-harassment policy of the College, and is committed to maintaining an environment that is free of harassment, illegal discrimination, and unprofessional conduct. In keeping with the policy, any form of harassment by or against any person is prohibited, whether such harassment is lawful or unlawful. This policy applies to all patrons, venue staff, Series staff, performing artists, artist representatives, and third-party vendors. To report harassment, either speak to a Harriman-Jewell Series staff member, email the Series at info@hjseries.org, or call 816-415-5025.

KODŌ

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 Shimon

Posture & Movement Instructor
 Tatsuo Kudo

Voice Instructor
 Yumi Nogami

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



Supported by the Agency for Cultural Affairs,
 Government of Japan

PROGRAM NOTES

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 character, 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 programme 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 has shaped Kodo today.

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Thank you very much for attending our performance today.

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 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 pressed 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 upheld 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, and *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

KODO

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 7,000 performances on 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 which now exerts a strong influence on the group's performances and compositions. Collaborations with other artists and composers extend right 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. Their 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 colour 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 non-profit 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 Kodo Cultural Foundation supports many vital initiatives. Its activities include holding workshops, planning annual music festival Earth Celebration, creating a research library, managing Kodo Apprentice Centre and Sado Island Taiko Centre, and carrying out research in the performing arts.

Website: www.kodo.or.jp
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