

# One Earth Tour - Kodo Performance Activities

# KODŌ



Théâtre du Châtelet, Paris (2009)

The world is a kaleidoscope of people and cultures. In this age of exploding populations and lightening-fast communication, it is more important than ever that diverse cultures learn to understand and accept each other so that all may share our increasingly shrinking planet in harmony. Since ancient times the taiko has been a symbol of community, serving as a link among people, as well as a link between people and the heavens. Through the *One Earth Tour*, Kodo has given over 3,400 performances in 46 countries around the globe, making the group Japan's most internationally acclaimed performing art ensemble. Kodo will continue to bring the sound of the Japanese drum around the globe, and with the taiko's unique ability to transcend the barriers of language and custom, remind us all of our membership in that larger community -- the world.



Carnegie Hall, New York (1998)

## The Elements of Kodo Performances

There are three principal elements in the make-up of a Kodo performance.

The first type is based upon traditional folk arts, learned from local people throughout Japan. Our intention is not simply to replicate, but, in rearranging them for the stage, attempt to capture their universal spirit and energy as they filter through our bodies.

Art forms rooted in the soil are developed through an intimate relationship between people and their art and between art and nature. Therein lies irreplaceable treasures laden with hints for people living in a bewildering age.

The second element of our performance is made up of compositions of friends and mentors of Kodo. These include composers Maki Ishii and Shinichiro Ikebe, Kabuki musicians Roetsu Tosha and Kiyohiko Semba, and jazz pianist Yosuke Yamashita.

The third element consists of original compositions by Kodo members themselves, who have used their exposure to the rhythms and sounds of the many people and places they have visited as grist for their own creations.

Our performance begins with the blending of these three elements with our lives amid the sights and sounds of Sado Island. It is then forged into shape on the anvil of rehearsal.



Odeon of Herodes Atticus, Acropolis, Athens (1995)