

Foreign Press Comments



"It should be a monotonous instrument, but because of the extraordinary variety of playing styles they achieve an unbelievable range of changes in tonal quality that thrill the audience. This is made possible because of Kodo's deep research and creativity." — *Beijing Evening News (China)*

"Indeed, if there is such a thing as perfection in music, Kodo comes as near to it as any group in the world." — *Boston Globe (USA)*

"Traditional rituals recast as theater, and contemporary thoughts about ancient instruments both figure in Kodo's performance, which includes ancient and modern compositions. Yet with tense, angular postures, with stylized, frozen gestures and, in one playful piece, with animal-like scampering and slithering, Kodo reminds its audience that, above all, its music is a matter of flesh and blood, wood and stretched skin. Kodo can raise the roof, but the group can also show extraordinary finesse." — *The New York Times (USA)*

"The members of Kodo, who live, train, and work together on as a collective on Japan's Sado Island, have performed and toured in an effort to remind audiences of their membership in that much larger community: the world. That reminder was clear and mesmerizing." — *Los Angeles Times (USA)*

"Superlatives don't really exist to convey the primal power and bravura beauty of Kodo." — *Chicago Tribune (USA)*

"Excitingly varied, marvelously theatrical, fascinating from start to finish, with moments of vivid physical excitement, this programme by a small group of dancers and drummers, remaking performance arts into a modern theatrical experience, was a model of what can be done with folk art." — *The Sunday Telegraph (UK)*

"Balancing a deadly aggression with utter tranquility, their sound stretches from the lightest of rainfall to cataclysmic thunderclaps, from pleasant laughter to discordant fear and from silence to - just once here - a wall of sound, as high, frightening and impregnable as a mountain. Musicians, theatre directors and all interested in the sheer power of sound to feed emotions should take note." — *The Guardian (UK)*

"The drum as a martial art, as a circus act, as an athletic discipline, even as a phallic symbol. These are just some of the impressions offered by the formidable Japanese drumming ensemble Kodo..." — *Il Sole 24 ORE (Italy)*

Kodo Connections

Kodo has had the honor of meeting and working with some of the brightest stars in the world of contemporary music and dance, as well as performing at some of the world's most renowned performing arts venues. We are both humbled by the many amazing artists who have influenced our creative direction and proud to have become a formidable influence in our own right. Below is a short list of some of the important connections we have made in our near three-decade journey.

Work with producers including **Bill Laswell, Mickey Hart, & Tamasaburo Bando**, **DJs** including **DJ Krush & Jazztronik**, and **recordings with musicians** including **Zakir Hussain, Giovanni Hidalgo** and **Airto Moreira**.

Work with composers including **Maki Ishii, Vangelis, Isao Tomita, & Tan Dun**, as well as with **renowned conductors** including **Seiji Ozawa & Tatsuya Shimono**.

Orchestra collaborations with the **Boston Symphony Orchestra (USA)**, **New Japan Philharmonic**, & **Orchestra of the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia (Italy)**.

Work with acclaimed dance companies including **Paris Opera Ballet, Akram Khan Company** and **Sidi Larbi Cherkaoui – Eastman**.

Participation in festivals including **Edinburgh International Festival, Les Nuits de Fourvière, & Athens Festival**.

Performances at world-class halls including **Opéra Bastille (Opéra National de Paris), Carnegie Hall, & Berlin Philharmonie**.

Live collaborations with solo artists including **Max Roach, Elvin Jones, & Evelyn Glennie**.

Credited for inspiring performance groups including **Blue Man Group, Stomp, and Cirque du Soleil**.

Numerous television appearances worldwide including the **David Letterman Show**, the BBC Documentary "Full Circle with **Michael Palin**" and **Beat Takeshi's** "Takeshi no Daredemo Picasso."