



MOSS
ARTS
CENTER

24
/
25

kodo
one earth tour 2025: warabe

Thursday, February 27, 2025, 7:30 PM

Street and Davis Performance Hall, Anne and Ellen Fife Theatre

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kodo

one earth tour 2025: warabe

- 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 Sumiyoshi (2021)

INTERMISSION

- Shinka** Composed by Miura (2021)
- Okoshi** Composed by Maeda
Dance arranged by Miura (2021)
- Dokuso** Composed by Reo Kitabayashi (2021)
- Inochi** Composed by Ryoto Leo Ikenaga (2021)
- O-daiko** Arranged by Kodo and Kenta Nakagome
- Yatai-bayashi** Traditional; arranged by Kodo

*The performance will last approximately
two hours with one 20-minute intermission.*

**This performance is supported in part by a gift from
Ms. Constance Cedras. Additional funding is provided by
the Elizabeth McIntosh Mitchell Trauger Excellence Fund.**



program notes

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, 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.

Come and experience the soul-stirring rhythm of life firsthand.

This work toured throughout Japan from November 2021 to September 2022, China in 2023, and Europe in 2024.

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)

Kodo's 40th Anniversary commemorative performance, *Warabe*, is the second work in a two-part series, which follows *Tsuzumi*. The theme for this production is our home base, Sado Island.

Kodo was founded 42 years ago with living, learning, and creating at the heart of its mission statement. As we create new works here on Sado, I can feel that principle underpinning everything we do.

For centuries, Sado Island's abundant nature and distinct culture have fostered the creation of a wide range of performing arts. These art forms are still upheld here today as an intrinsic part of island life. For *Warabe*, the Kodo performers took inspiration from this unique environment we call home to create new music brimming with originality.

Our audience is an integral part of every performance. We truly appreciate their presence and hope they feel our gratitude in every beat of the drum. *Warabe* is a journey to our island home and into Kodo's next innovative chapter. Join us and let your soul dance to the rhythm of life in this joyous, visceral concert experience.

— Yuichiro Funabashi, director and Kodo ensemble leader



kodo

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

Director

Yuichiro Funabashi

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Voice Instructor	Yumi Nogami
Posture and Movement Instructor	Tatsuo Kudo
Lighting Designer	Kenichi Mashiko (S.L.S.)
Technical Director	Kei Olivier Furukata
Stage Manager	Takeshi Arai
Assistant Stage Manager	Kengo Kosugi
Production Manager	Yui Kamiya
Tour Managers	Natsumi Ikenaga and Rena Tsukamoto
Assistant Manager	Donnie Keeton
Physical Trainer	Kiyoaki Sakai
International Tour Management	IMG Artists
Publicity	Soloshoe Communications, LLC
Photographer	Takashi Okamoto
Promotional Video Director	Sokichi Sogawa
Promotional Artwork	Hiroomi Hattori (COM Works)

Special Thanks

Ranjo, Shingo Tokihiro, Kawachi Wakate, Rengebuji Temple,
Kodo Cultural Foundation



Supported by the Agency for Cultural Affairs,
Government of Japan

Planning and Production Company: Kitamaesen Co., Ltd.

For inquiries, please contact Kodo at:

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biographies

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 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 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, which now exert 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. The group's 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, 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 revitalisation of rare craft traditions and Noh theatres throughout Sado Island, the highly collaborative foundation supports many vital initiatives. Its activities include holding workshops, planning the 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.

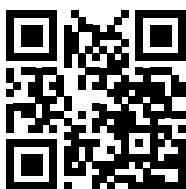
kodo apprentice center

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.

This is Kodo's first performance at the Moss Arts Center.



tell us what you think!



We'd love your feedback on this performance. If you complete the short survey, you can enter for a chance to win two tickets to A.I.M by Kyle Abraham on Saturday, March 22, 2025.

bit.ly/kodo-feedback

Please note, survey responses are anonymous. If you would like a response to your feedback, please email mossartscenter@vt.edu.

go deeper

Part of Kodo's desire to establish a home and school on Sado Island was to attract young people to stay, or potentially relocate, to the island. To this day, younger members of the group live in dormitory-style housing to help strengthen communal connections. What parallels can you find between Kodo's efforts on Sado Island and many initiatives across the New River Valley to increase the number of young professionals living and working in our community post-graduation?

engagement events

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AND ARTIST Q&A

Virginia Tech and New River Valley community members gathered to explore the art of traditional Japanese *taiko* drumming and speak with Kodo company members during an open rehearsal.

COMMUNITY TICKET PROGRAM

In partnership with New River Community Action, families enjoyed a pre-show meal and complimentary tickets to tonight's performance.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

SCHOOL-DAY PERFORMANCE

More than 1,000 students and educators in grades six through 12 from across Roanoke, Pulaski, Montgomery, Carroll, Giles, Craig, Floyd, Wythe, Patrick, Orange, and Botetourt counties, as well as Radford and Roanoke cities, will attend a free performance for young audiences.

CULTURE AND CONTEXT THROUGH THE ARTS

In partnership with InclusiveVT, participants of the Culture and Context Through the Arts professional development course will attend the school-day performance and gather for an engaging post-performance discussion.

Special thanks to InclusiveVT, New River Community Action, the Virginia Tech Foundation, Virginia Tech School of Performing Arts, Michele Deramo, Stephanie Bryson, and Eduardo Sato

MOSS ARTS CENTER

Through Sun.,
March 30, 2025



Shaunté Gates *This Is Not a Test*

Ruth C. Horton Gallery

Washington, D.C.-based artist Shaunté Gates' solo exhibition features a survey of mixed-media paintings and densely layered works that combine photography, painting, collage, and found materials, resulting in surreal, dreamlike compositions that merge portraiture, landscape, and architecture.

Charisse Pearlina Weston *I saw the room but darkly dreamed it ...*

*Miles C. Horton Jr. Gallery and
Sherwood Payne Quillen '71 Reception Gallery*

New York-based artist Charisse Pearlina Weston's solo exhibition engages with themes of surveillance and tactics of Black refusal by transforming materials associated with observation and control through repetition and reuse.

Free Related Event **Beyond the Frame Gallery Tours**

Thurs., March 13, 12 PM

Moss Arts Center Grand Lobby

Charisse Pearlina Weston; pyrolytic envelop I (into the bright and distributed subject side), 2024; text etched on slumped and folded Mirropane surveillance glass and concrete; 51 1/2 x 22 x 14 1/2 inches; © Charisse Pearlina Weston; courtesy of the artist and Dr. Charles Boyd

PK-12 PROGRAMS AT THE MOSS ARTS CENTER

Each year, wildly enthusiastic students — from PK through 12th grade — fill our theatre for free matinee performances by artists from all over the world. They explore our visual arts galleries during school tours and create and learn during hands-on workshops with artists. For many students, visiting the Moss Arts Center is the first time they've ever been to a performing arts facility or gallery. Why do young people need access to the arts? Engaging in artistic activities offers a wide range of skills that they will use throughout their lives.

Learn more at bit.ly/moss-k12.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Virginia Tech acknowledges that we live and work on the Tutelo/Monacan People's homeland, and we recognize their continued relationships with their lands and waterways. We further acknowledge that the Morrill Land-Grant College Act (1862) enabled the commonwealth of Virginia to finance and found Virginia Tech through the forced removal of Native Nations from their lands in California and other areas in the West.

LABOR RECOGNITION

Virginia Tech acknowledges that its Blacksburg campus sits partly on land that was previously the site of the Smithfield and Solitude Plantations, owned by members of the Preston family. Between the 1770s and the 1860s, the Prestons and other local White families that owned parcels of what became Virginia Tech also owned hundreds of enslaved people. Enslaved Black people generated resources that financed Virginia Tech's predecessor institution, the Preston and Olin Institute, and they also worked on the construction of its building.

MOSS ARTS CENTER

artscenter.vt.edu



Your gift to the Moss Arts Center helps to support access to the arts, student engagement, and cultural diversity.

Through gifts like yours, we have been able to expand opportunities for PK-12 students in our region, deepen relationships with academic partners, continue to offer \$10 tickets to performances for Virginia Tech students, and provide experiential learning opportunities for students.

Help us continue this work!



GIVE NOW

bit.ly/support-the-moss

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We are grateful for the generosity of our patrons and donors who sustain the Moss Arts Center with their annual gifts. The impact of all contributions, no matter the amount, is significant in helping us transform lives through exploration and engagement with the arts and the creative process. We are honored to have received cash donations during the period of July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, from the following:

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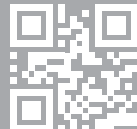
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tues., march 18, 7:30 pm
broadway in blacksburg
the book of mormon

sat., march 22, 7:30 pm
a.i.m by kyle abraham

tues., march 25, 7:30 pm
an evening with
charles yu

fri., march 28, 7:30 pm
circa
opus

wed., april 2, 7:30 pm
▲ les arts florissants
vivaldi's four seasons at 300
théotime langlois de swarte, violin

thurs., april 24, and
fri., april 25, 7:30 pm
george emilio sanchez
in the court of the conqueror

sat., may 10, 7:30 pm
chucho valdés and irakere 50



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*an evening with
charles yu*

tues., march 25, 7:30 pm

National Book Award winner and *Westworld* screenwriter Charles Yu details the Asian American experience and explores the unique power of sci-fi to address the human condition.



SPECIAL EVENTS

CONTRA DANCE AT THE Y

Contra Dance is a traditional American dance in which couples dance in two long facing lines or in groups of four. No partner required!

Y COMMUNITY GALLERY

We are proud to announce that the YMCA at Virginia Tech is opening a brand-new community art gallery in The Y Center at 1000 N. Main St., Blacksburg. We are extremely grateful to eARTh (by Diane Relf) for sponsorship of this new space and for the generous support of Shelter Alternatives and Bell Electric.

Y BOOK FAIR

Among the many volumes of books that will be available in our annual Book Fair there will be a collection of books of local origin, authors and interest. We'll have literally thousands of books, comics, graphic novels, vinyl and vintage collectibles for you to peruse at the very best prices around so get ready!!



YOUR GUIDE TO RECYCLING AT THE Y

WHAT

Textiles (gently used household items to include books, clothing, housewares, blankets, toys, etc.)

*Thrift Shop (Blacksburg)
Please deliver to Thrift Shop dock during business hours.*

Electronics (working & non-working TV's (from Mont. County residents only)

*Thrift Shop (Blacksburg)
Please deliver to Thrift Shop dock during business hours.*

Batteries (Rechargeable batteries only)

*Thrift Shop (Blacksburg)
Bring inside to Recycling Station.
Each item will need to be individually bagged. Bags and tape will be provided.*

CFL's, Ink Jet cartridges, rechargeable batteries

*Thrift Shop (Blacksburg)
Bring inside to Recycling Table. Each item will need to be individually bagged. Bags and tape will be provided.*

We love to hear from you! Feel free to send us an email at ymca@vtymca.org and we will be in contact with you soon.

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