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**FULL SCHEDULE AND IMAGES**  
<http://mondaviarts.org/press>

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Jan. 5, 2009

### **Kodo Returns to the Mondavi Center with “One Earth Tour”**

**Davis, Calif.**— For nearly 30 years, **Kodo** has explored the boundless potential of the **ancient Japanese drum (taiko)**. Inspired by the powerful natural beauty of their home on Sado Island in the Sea of Japan, Kodo infuses traditional forms with fresh global influences to create new musical expressions that are utterly unique. On **Wednesday, February 4, at 8 p.m., Kodo** returns to the **Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, UC Davis**, with the **“One Earth Tour,”** a stunning, celebration of the unifying sound of taiko.

“Taiko is very popular in this area, and Kodo’s drummers are the grandmasters of taiko drumming around the world. They’re the best-known touring group, the best ambassadors for taiko; the audience experience is certainly among the best available.”

—**Jeremy Ganter**, Mondavi Center associate executive director

**Pricing** is \$45/35/25 for regular tickets and \$22.50/17.50/12.50 for students and children. Purchase tickets online at [MondaviArts.org](http://MondaviArts.org), through the Mondavi Center box office at 530-754-2787 or 866-754-2787 (toll-free), or at the door. Accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request. This event is presented as part of the Mondavi Center’s **World Stage Music** series, which continues with **Juan de Marcos and the Afro-Cuban All Stars** on **February 26**.

**Kodo** was born 38 years ago, via a small group of young people in Japan yearning for a new way to live. Disappointed with the direction of modern Japanese society and eager to rediscover traditional roots and values, they left their busy urban cultures behind and traveled north to remote Sado Island, in the Sea of Japan.

They found a home in an abandoned schoolhouse by the sea and began to play the world's oldest instrument, the drum (taiko). Surrounded by Sado Island's rich performing arts traditions, they began to study other instruments as well—the shamisen, koto and shakuhachi. They explored dance, song and stagecraft along with the taiko's limitless depth and range. Years passed and the group's numbers grew. In time, Sado Island's unique culture, its four powerful seasons and great natural beauty, found expression in their art. There was not only a primal fierceness and determination to their work, but a playful, childlike curiosity as well. So they called themselves “Kodo,” which means “heartbeat” but also “children of the drum.”

Kodo exploded onto the world stage at the Berlin Festival in 1981 and have since delivered more than 3,100 performances in 45 countries, from war-torn Croatia to New York's Carnegie Hall. Through constant collaborations with musicians, dancers, singers and actors in many countries, Kodo relentlessly explores the boundaries of the taiko and the closely related traditional Japanese performing arts. Find more information on this ensemble at [www.kodo.or.jp](http://www.kodo.or.jp).

- **Kodo “One Earth Tour”**
- **Wed., Feb. 4, 8 p.m.**
- **Mondavi Center, Jackson Hall**
- **9399 Old Davis Road, Davis, CA 95616 (GPS)**
- **\$45/35/25 regular; \$22.50/17.50/12.50 students, children**
- **530-754-2787**  
**866-754-2787 (toll-free)**  
**530-754-5402 (TDD)**  
[MondaviArts.org](http://MondaviArts.org)

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