



CHICAGO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

220 South Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60604-2559

News

For Immediate Release:

February 4, 2019

Press Contacts:

[Dana Navarro](#)

312-294-3090

Photos available upon request

PR@CSO.org

[Eileen Chambers](#)

312-294-3092

**CELEBRATED TAIKO PERFORMING ARTS ENSEMBLE KODO
RETURNS FOR SYMPHONY CENTER PRESENTS SPECIAL CONCERT**

**Kodo's Program, *Evolution*, Features Japanese Drumming, Dance, Song
and Bamboo Flute with Stunning Visual Effects**

Thursday, February 28, at 7:30 p.m.

CHICAGO—The world's most celebrated Japanese taiko drumming ensemble Kodo returns for a Symphony Center Presents (SCP) Special Concert on [Thursday, February 28, at 7:30 p.m.](#) The performance is a part of Kodo's *One Earth Tour 2019: Evolution*, which showcases the group's creativity in drumming, dance and song under the artistic direction of Kabuki actor Tamasaburo Bando.

For decades, Kodo has led the genre of taiko performance with dedication and innovation, resulting in a rousing whirl of energy. *Evolution* is a program of large-scale works performed on a variety of drums with impeccable precision, from the Katsugi Daiko ("portable taiko") drums to timpani to the massive 660-pound o-daiko drums. Bando has crafted a program that features dance, song and bamboo flute performances with stunning visual effects. Signature pieces like "O-daiko" and "Monochrome," which have been synonymous with Kodo since the group's early days, are set alongside more recent work such as "Kusa-wake" and "Color."

In Japanese, the word "Kodo" holds a double meaning. It can be translated as "heartbeat," the primal source of all rhythm. If read in a different context however, Kodo can also mean "children of the drum," which reflects the group's desire to play the drums with the simple heart of a child. Since the group's debut at the Berlin Festival in 1981, Kodo has given 6,000 performances in 50 countries on five continents. The ensemble also participates in a wide range of projects and events, which includes headlining major international festivals, contributing to motion picture soundtracks and collaborating with a wide variety of global performing arts leaders. Kodo's

RICCARDO MUTI
Zell Music Director

HELEN ZELL
Chair, Board of Trustees

JEFF ALEXANDER
President

YO-YO MA
Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant

members and staff are based in Kodo Village, a 33-acre section of the Ogi Peninsula on Sado Island in the Sea of Japan.

Tickets for all Symphony Center Presents Special Concerts can be purchased by phone at **800-223-7114** or **312-294-3000**, online at cso.org or at the Symphony Center box office: 220 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60604.

Discounted student tickets for select concerts can be purchased, subject to availability, online in advance or at the box office on the day of the concert. For group rates, please call 312-294-3040.

Artists, programs and prices are subject to change.

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**Symphony Center Presents
Special Concert**

Thursday, February 28, at 7:30 p.m.
Kodo One Earth Tour: Evolution

Tickets: \$30-\$80

Featured Artist for this Performance:

Kodo

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra: www.cso.org and www.csosoundsandstories.org

Founded by Theodore Thomas in 1891, the Chicago Symphony Orchestra is consistently hailed as one of the greatest orchestras in the world. Since 2010, the pre-eminent conductor Riccardo Muti has served as its 10th music director. Yo-Yo Ma is the Judson and Joyce Green Creative Consultant, Missy Mazzoli is Mead Composer-in-Residence and Erina Yashima is the Sir Georg Solti Conducting Apprentice.

From baroque through contemporary music, the CSO commands a vast repertoire. Its renowned musicians annually perform more than 150 concerts, most at Symphony Center in Chicago and, each summer, at the suburban Ravinia Festival. They regularly tour nationally and internationally. Since 1892, the CSO has made 60 international tours, performing in 29 countries on five continents.

People around the globe listen to weekly radio broadcasts of CSO concerts and recordings on the WFMT radio network and online at cso.org/radio. Recordings by the CSO have earned 62 Grammy Awards, including two in 2011 for Muti's recording with the CSO and Chorus of Verdi's *Messa da Requiem* (Muti's first of eight releases with the CSO to date). Find details on these and many other CSO recordings at www.cso.org/resound.

The CSO is part of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra Association, which also includes the Chicago Symphony Chorus (Duain Wolfe, Director and Conductor) and the Civic Orchestra of Chicago, a training ensemble for emerging professionals. Through its prestigious Symphony Center Presents series, the CSOA presents guest artists and ensembles from a variety of genres—classical, jazz, world, and contemporary.

The Negaunee Music Institute at the CSO offers community and education programs that annually engage more than 200,000 people of diverse ages and backgrounds. Through the Institute and other activities, including a free annual concert led by Muti, the CSO is committed to using the power of music to create connections and build community.

The CSO is supported by thousands of patrons, volunteers and institutional and individual donors. The CSO's music director position is endowed in perpetuity by a generous gift from the Zell Family Foundation. The Negaunee Foundation provides generous support in perpetuity for the work of the Negaunee Music Institute.