

# Kobe 2024 Para Athletics World Championships Opening Ceremony



Date: Friday 17 May, 2024 (Admission deadline 13:30)

Pre-Ceremony Performance 13:45

Opening Ceremony 14:00

Venue: Kobe Sports Park Universiade Memorial Stadium

Programme	
1	Pre-ceremony Performance (Taiko drum performance by Yuichi KIMURA, Suma Shofu High School)
2	Opening
	• National Anthem (Naoya TOKITA)
	• Flag Parade by Representatives of each Team
• Speeches	Akemi MASUDA - Kobe 2024 LOC Chairperson
	Motohiko SAITO - Governor of Hyogo Prefecture
	Paul FITZGERALD - Head of WPA
• Address	His Imperial Highness Crown Prince Akishino
• Declaration	Kizo HISAMOTO - Mayor of Kobe City
	• Swearing of the Oath (Athlete, Judge & Coach)
3	Welcoming Acts (Dance performances by Kenta KAMBARA, N'ism, Kobe Noda High School Dance Club; Taiko drum performance by Yuichi KIMURA, Suma Shofu High School)
4	Closing

## NORI

- Travelled to North America independently at age 19 and studied dance. Established street jazz with the dance team she founded, 'NASTY'.
- Produced the dance performance group 'N'ism', which achieved victory in the World of Dance Championships in 2019 and 2022.
- Was responsible for choreography at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics closing ceremony.
- As part of spreading the jazz aesthetic to the dance scene, founded dance studio 'N COMPANY' in her hometown of Kobe, where she continues to make a global impact.



# Opening Ceremony Performers



## Naoya TOKITA <National Anthem Solo>



Baritone vocalist born (1960) and residing in Kobe. Participated in numerous earthquake memorial charity concerts as well as concerts and lecture activities at home and abroad. Won the vocal category of the Helen Keller All-Japan Blind Student Music Competition. Received the Cultural Encouragement Award from the Kobe Arts and Culture Organisation Handon no Kai.

## Yuichi KIMURA



Taiko drummer born in Kobe. Made his professional debut as a performer in France in 1995, inspired by his uplifting performances for the victims of the Great Hanshin Earthquake. Since then, he has embarked on American tours and collaborated with numerous artists in both classical and jazz genres, creating music that transcends borders and styles. Received accolades such as the Sakai Tokutada Music Award, the Kobe City Cultural Encouragement Award, and the Hyogo Prefecture Art Encouragement Award.

## Suma Shofu High School Taiko Drum Club



Inherits its legacy from its predecessor, the Kobe City Kobe Nishi High School. Participated in various ceremonies and events, including the 2022 National Abundant Sea Creation Competition. Directed by Yuichi Kimura and the Taiko Drum Band Daichi no Kai.

# Opening Ceremony Performers



## Kenta KAMBARA



Wheelchair dancer and circus performer born in Kobe. Known for acrobatic moves like handstands and aerial acts on his wheelchair which make full use of his upper body. Performed at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics opening ceremony, Rio 2016 Paralympics closing ceremony, and Korea International Accessible Dance Festival (KIADA 2019). He has also made various other appearances, such as lectures at schools, the NHK Kohaku Uta Gassen, and television commercials.

## N'ism



Kobe-based dance performance group for the world directed by choreographer NORI, formed in 2018. Performed in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics closing ceremony. Made history by winning the World of Dance Championships twice (2019, 2022). Won The Dance Day (Nippon TV) in 2023.

## Kobe Noda High School Dance Club



Three times winner of the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Award at the All-Japan High School and University Dance Festival (Kobe). Nine times winner of the Hyogo Prefecture High School Athletic Meet. Received various prizes such as the Kobe City Sports Prize Kobe Youth Prize, and Marronnier Prize.