

Individual profile:

JOONSAM (Bass/composition)

Joonsam Lee, born and raised in Seoul, Korea, moved to the NYC area in 2007 and in terms of huge musical spectrum, he has taken part in various musical projects including bebop jazz, improvisational music, free jazz, rock, classical music, world music and Broadway musical. Since settling in Manhattan, he has been very active in the NY metropolitan area, performing at some of the finest jazz clubs and venues, not only as a side man but also a bandleader. He performed in New York at Blue Note, Dizzy's club, Kitano, Cornelia st. cafe, Zinc bar, 55 bar, Smalls jazz club, Fat cat, Cleopatra's needle, Jazz Gallery, etc, and performed Jarasum International Jazz Festival(Korea), Taichung Jazz festival(Taiwan), Grand Tour Jazz festival, Jazz di Marca Jazz festival (Italy), Odessa International Jazz festival, Vinnista Jazz Festival (Ukraine) as well as appearing with Symphony Orchestras (NYUJO, NYKJO, Leon Lacey, and etc)



Miki Hirose (Trumpet)



Miki began playing trumpet in High school in his native city Kobe, Japan. He quickly became a well sought after talent in the Kansai West Japan area. After graduating from high school Miki was one of the youngest recipients to receive several awards for his talent such as the Shoji Nakayama and Naniwa Art Prize awards. While living in Japan Miki has played with critically acclaimed Kansai based groups such as Hip Hop group Blue Control which is comprised of members MC DSK, DJ Taninaka and 2002 DMC Japan Final winner, DJ FUL.

Miki arrived in New York in 2003 and has been freelancing ever since. He has played with many prestigious artist in the New York scene such as Benny Golson, Dr. Lonnie Smith, Frank Wess, Billy Harper, Frank Lacy, Premordial Jazz Funktet, Rick Parker Collective, Harlem Renaissance Orchestra, Valery Ponomarev Big Band, La Excelencia, Pedro Giraudo Jazz Orchestra, Matt Snow Group and many others. Miki has also done various recordings. Miki continues to perform internationally.

In 2010 he released his debut album entitled gA DAY IN NEW YORKh which received critically acclaimed responses and reviews in the United States as well as massive radio plays in Japan. He has released his second album gScratchh which is a reflection of his inspiration of Latin music.

Miki moved his base to Japan, 2014. He started his own Jazz Orchestra called gMiki Hirose Jazz Orchestrah, which has already become one of the best Jazz Orchestras in Japan. From his dedicated work to Kobe city, he received Kobe City Culture Award from Kobe City.

Harutaka Sakita (Drums)

Harutaka Sakita, was born 1984 in Kobe City of Hyogo Prefecture of Japan. He attended Konan Brass Ensemble Club in Konan Middle School, where Harutaka's Drum Life was started. During his Middle School days, he became the champion of Kanto Student Jazz Festival and received Nice Player Award.

During his High School years, he played as the main drummer, along with becoming the champion of Japan Student Festival for two years, receiving the Nice Player Award in the second year.

When he was a student, many famous musicians such as Sadao Watanabe, Terumasa Hino, Keiko Lee, evaluated his drum skill and played in England, France, and the United States.

He attended Konan University Jazz Club in Konan University and played as a drummer for Newport Swing Orchestra. He receives the Best Soloist Award in the 36th Yamano Big Band Contest.

Since this time, he started his personal musical career supporting for Jazz combo, Big Band, Fusion bands, indie bands, centering his activities around live house in the Kansai area of Japan.

After graduating Konan University in 2008, he flew to the United States by himself for three months.

He performed in sessions with world renowned musicians such as Roy Hargrove, Justin Brown, and Joe Sanders, as he becomes highly influenced by them.

When coming back to Japan, he made a band "Swing Jam Band" with Ryosuke Asai (As), Takaaki Otomo (P), and Hiroyuki Demiya (B), and spreads his activities country wide.

In January 2011, he moved his point of activity to New York, playing drums in the Live venues in New York City for various bands. In December of 2011, he participated in Ryan Brennan Organ Trio's album "181" and became an exclusive artist of Cross Town Records. He attended New York City College as of September 2012. However, he resigned from the college in 2013. Then, he focused on music life and participated in Joonsam Lee trio in May and Yuko Okamoto Quartet in September to have Ukraine tour. After that, he moved back to Japan in 2015.

Now, he is based in Nagoya and playing in various parts of Japan.



Francesca Han (Piano)



Pianist Francesca Han's music captures both the subtle affectivity of classical music and the uninhibited effusiveness of rock. Having studied both, she has now developed an approach to jazz that leaves a foot planted in tradition while reaching for unique expression.

After achieving rapid success in her native Korea, she was encouraged to move to New York City in 2004. There she received her master's degree in jazz performance from Queens College under the tutelage of pianists David Berkman and Bruch Barth, trumpeter and arranger Michael Mossman, and saxophonist Antonio Hart. She also studied with Jason Moran and Ralph Alessi. During her 8 years in NY she performed with various jazz groups in many different venues (Dizzy's Club Jazz at Lincoln Center, 92nd Street Y, Kitano,

Sofia, Garage, fatcat, Smalls, Cleopatra's...) as well as at international jazz festivals, like Jarasum Jazz Festival, Taichung Jazz Festival, Penang Jazz Festival.

Her performance with the quartet Jayu at Jamaica Center has won critical claim by New York Daily News for its blend of jazz and traditional Korean music.