



future jazz quartet

The Future Jazz Quartet - Bio

Thank you for taking the time to read about us. We are a music group from Japan called The Future Jazz Quartet (FJQ)!

We have performed throughout the Osaka, Kobe, Kyoto area as well as Tokyo. Our four-member band with wide-ranging musical tastes creates spontaneous sonic chemical reactions every time we perform. We are comprised of Tenor sax, Piano, Electric bass and Drums. The FJQ Members are:

Harumo Imai - Sax <https://www.harumoimai.com>

Aiko Yoshiba - Piano <https://nemooo151.wixsite.com/aiko>

Naoki Isobe - Bass <https://www.naokiisobe.com>

Von Baron - Drums <https://vonbaronmusic.com>

We formed FJQ in 2017 in Osaka, Japan and have performed throughout Kansai (Osaka, Kobe and Kyoto) for our many dedicated fans. We are a high-energy musical group and believe our sound points towards the future of Jazz. We blend, Jazz, Hip-Hop and Classical musics to create a passionate, tight, virtuosic, exploratory and sonically-evolving style. Our sound is like Robert Glasper, Eldar and Claude Debussy bungee jumping together... musically FEARLESS!

We don't often play familiar cover songs, as our focus is in creating original compositions that have become favorites of our many enthusiastic fans. With their encouragement, we decided to embark on a journey to release our first commercial CD in 2019, "Flying Humanoid." With the help of our crowdfunding campaign and dedicated followers, we were able to raise 161% of our budget goal. Through our recording we were able to capture the magic of our live performance energy and sound.

During live shows, we often receive cheers and standing ovations from our growing audience. We feel the timing is right to reach a wider audience. We are looking forward to many more performances together throughout Japan and other parts of the World.

FJQ members' backgrounds:

HARUMO IMAI is a Japanese saxophonist and composer. She began learning to play YAMAHA Electone at the age of three. At the age of thirteen she began playing saxophone and participated in a YAMAHA Electone live performance project for teenagers hosted by YAMAHA. This event was her first experience performing at nightclubs with other musicians, playing both YAMAHA Electone and saxophone.

At sixteen, Harumo started playing mainly saxophone at nightclubs in her hometown Shiga, Japan as well as nearby Kyoto. Soon after graduating from high school, she moved to Tokyo and began performing more actively.

In 2016, She traveled to the United States to participate in the music program VIXCAMPS, hosted by legendary bassist Victor Wooten and held in Nashville, Tennessee. She studied with Victor and other world-class musicians like Bob Franceschini and Jeff Coffin.

Since 2018, She has been a part of “Ralph Rolle & The Funk Patrol” which is a Soul/Disco live project by world-renowned amazing drummer, Ralph Rolle (Nile Rodgers & CHICK, etc.).

In 2019, she also appeared with Victor Wooten on his Japan tour as a guest musician. Presently, Harumo is playing various styles of music, including Jazz, Funk, Soul, R&B, Rock, Fusion, and Free Improvisation. Although she currently lives in Tokyo, she often tours the west side of Japan performing as both a band leader and side musician.

AIKO YOSHIBA, born in MIE prefecture, is a graduate from KUFS (Kyoto University of Foreign Studies). She began piano at 3 years old and graduated from the Yamaha School of Music. After a 4~5 year hiatus, she began to study under Haruya Kibata & Akihiro Horikoshi, both well-known jazz pianists. She also traveled to New York City, where she worked under the tutelage of Matthew Fries and Kevin Hays. She plays piano, synthesizer keyboard, effector, and Hammond44.

Currently, she is a prolific performer, arranger and writer producing shows in various styles of music including Jazz, Funk and Pop among others.

2015 - Participant in Otsu Jazz Festival as a guest performer showcasing her original compositions

2016 - Released first commercial CD

-SEMI-FINALIST in the International Songwriting Competition 2016

2017 - Released a piano trio CD

- SEMI-FINALIST in the International Songwriting Competition 2017

- Also performs with other R&B, Soul, Pop, and Music acts throughout Japan.

2018 - Released her third commercial CD featuring original, pop and gospel music.

Her unique compositions and performances stem from her perspective of the world. Growing up in natural surroundings, she draws inspiration for her creativity from seeing nature and life from many angles. Something clearly evident in her compositions and playing.

Born into a musical family, bassist and composer **NAOKI ISOBE** started to learn western classical music at the age of 4. Besides studying classical piano, Naoki started to play jazz and popular music on the alto saxophone at 8 and Rock and Funk music on electric guitar and bass at 13. He started playing Jazz gigs on bass during his high school years.

In 2013, when he was still in high school, he first took part in "VixCamps", which is a music and nature camp hosted by bassist, Victor Wooten. Since then, he had participated in the same camp every year up until 2017. At the camp he studied with musicians such as, Victor Wooten, Regi Wooten, Anthony Wellington, Howard Levy, and Steve Bailey.

With Naoki's older brother, Hiroki Isobe on electric guitar, he released his first Progressive Rock and Jazz Fusion album "Into the Night" in 2016 and second album "Into the Night 2" in 2018 with drummers Kozo Suganuma and Senri Kawaguchi.

In 2016 Naoki placed as a 5th bass finalist in Lee Ritenor's Six String Theory Competition. In 2019 he sat in with the Victor Wooten band at Osaka's Billboard Live with Harumo Imai on tenor sax.

Besides being a career bassist, he also works as a pianist on a Contemporary Jazz duo project titled "Into the Night 2" with his brother Hiroki Isobe.

Originally from Kansas City, USA, **VON BARON** moved with his family in 2016 from Honolulu, HI to Kobe, Japan. Von is a critically acclaimed drummer of various styles performing and recording internationally with musicians that include Benny Golson, Stanley Jordan, Eddie Henderson, Don Ho, Ota san, Phillip Strange, The Future Jazz Quartet, Mariko Endo, The Honolulu Jazz Quartet, Tommy James and Stafford Hunter (Duke Ellington Orchestra), Geoffrey Keezer, Shelly Berg, Pete Christlieb, Ira Nepus, Henry Kaponu, Jeff Peterson, Theresa Bright and Matt Catingub & The Honolulu Symphony Pops among others.

In addition to his drumming career, Von has produced his four commercial original music albums Pangaea, Souljourner, The Answer and Can You Feel It and many other compositions for TV, Film, Video Game and Radio productions throughout the World.

Von also has a clear, smooth and expressive vocal ability and regularly sings Jazz and American Pop throughout the Osaka, Kobe and Kyoto areas.

**For booking, interviews or more information, please contact us at
contact@fjqjazz.com.**