

PROFILE Yuichiro Tokuda - Sax / Vocal & Composition

BAND: Yuichiro Tokuda RALYZZDIG

After studying at the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston, He returned to Japan and formed his band "Yuichiro Tokuda RALYZZDIG", and released his first album which was acclaimed as "the cutting edge of the present progressive form of jazz" in Jazz Life magazine. In 2006, he established GoodNessPlus Records / GoodNessPlus LLC. In 2008, he received an award as the "New Face of the Year in Art & Culture" from the Chiba-City Government, the first time ever for a jazz artist. Every year he performs at many festivals in all over the world. From 2011 to present, He & his band has more than 50 stages experience in all over the world. His original songs received "WINNER" "Honorable Mention Award" & "Finalist" in International Songwriting Competition etc, 2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2020 & 2022 Jazz Category. Awarded **【NISSAN presents JAZZ JAPAN AWARD 2020 : Album Of The Year - SPECIAL AWARD】** "RALYZZDIG" is mixed original word of "RAY, LYRIC, JAZZ and DIG" It means "to dig into Jazz that sends out hot ray and touches the heart with lyrics".

Yuichiro Tokuda RALYZZDIG are...

Yuichiro Tokuda : Alto/Sopranino Sax, Vocal, Composition

Naoto Suzuki : Guitar

Shunichi Yanagi : Piano

Noriaki Hosoya : Bass

Yota Tsukada : Drums

SNS:

[-Yuichiro Tokuda Official Web Site-](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Twitter](#)

[YouTube](#)

[All About Jazz](#)

MV:

https://youtu.be/_7tj4jLAPU4

<https://youtu.be/9aKselVuN2I>

<https://youtu.be/KV-lbQBHdUQ>

LIVE VIDEOS from International Jazz Festival:

<https://youtu.be/qPEqwPjgmAo>

<https://youtu.be/3jIlWmJ3htY>

<https://youtu.be/WCBwu5LvleA>



Yuichiro Tokuda : Saxophonist, Singer, Composer.

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Naoto Suzuki : Guitarist

Born in 1976. He started Classical piano from 4 years old, Violin from the age of 6, Drums from the age of 12. And he started playing guitar at the age of 13. Studied under Yoshihisa Suzuki from the age of 15. 2004 Gibson Jazz Guitar Contest winner. In 2010, he won the Best Guitarist Award at Jazz Session on You Tube 2009-10. In 2014, he was selected as an outstanding guitarist at the Diners Club Social Jazz Session 2013-14 and performed with World Famous Guitarist Mr. Lee Ritenour at Blue Note Tokyo, and Winner of the Best Honorable Prize selected by Mr. Lee Ritenour. In the same year, he won 4th place in the world in the Jazz/Fusion Guitarist category of Lee Ritenour's Six String Theory World Competition.



Shunichi Yanagi : Pianist

On October 10, 2012, he released his first leader work "Bubble Fish". In 2015, his second leader album "Slope" released in April. In the fall of 2015, he participated in the recording of Joris Posthumus, one of the leading Dutch alto saxophonists. It released worldwide in the fall of 2016. In April 2017, he performed with the Joris Posthumus group in 10 venues in the Netherlands and Belgium, and appeared at BIMHUIS and others. In July, they performed at the NORTH SEA JAZZ FESTIVAL. He is expected to play an even wider role internationally. In September 2018, he released his third album "Play Standards". Get good reviews. In March 2020, he released his fourth album "GO & GO & GO". Participated as a pianist in former TBS announcer Mika Horii's one-person reading yomibasho vol 1. In November 2022, the fifth album "Y'S TRIO VOL.1" will be released.



Noriaki Hosoya : Bassist

Graduated Berklee College of Music majoring in Performance & Jazz Composition and Arrangement & was honored the Outstanding Performer Award during his study. He moved to Berlin, Germany in 2010 & accomplished musical director of Canadian singer Rachele Jeanty (ex. Celine Dion) from 2011 to 2016. One of his Europe-based project Falk Bonitz Trio has reviewed in JAZZTHING magazine (the biggest jazz magazine in Germany) and he is referred to Ron Carter and Jaco Pastorius as compliment. He is now based in Tokyo, Japan and received JAZZJAPAN Award album of the year 2020 as a part of Yuichiro Tokuda's RALYZZDIG. He performs and records with numerous of artists as a bass player locally and internationally, including his own project in Japan "niskhaf" and his current European project "Swansong". He is also a part of music education group Internal Compass and teaches master class in Internal Compass Music School in Mitzpe Ramon, Israel. He is currently endorsed with Adamovic Basses, Vanderkley Amplification, and David Laboga Cables.



Yota Tsukada : Drummer.

Born in 2000 in Yokohama, Kanagawa Prefecture. He started playing drums at the age of 8 and studied with Takao Okamura. Under the influence of jazz drummer Mr. Okamura, he gradually became inclined to jazz. In 2018, he entered the jazz course at Showa University of Music, where he studied with Taro Koyama and Kazuaki Yokoyama. She also studied classical percussion with Takako Yamaguchi and Latin percussion with Takeshi Ishikawa. In 2019, he participated in the Yamano Big Band Jazz Contest as a member of the Showa University of Music Lily Jazz Orchestra and won 6th place. In 2022, he graduated with honors from the same school. He has also performed twice at the California Jazz Conservatory in California, USA. Participate in a short-term study abroad program and deepen exchanges with local people and music. Currently, he is active in his own band, Daiki Yasukawa (ba) Nutrio, Yuki Nakane (ts) quartet, and other groups, mainly in Tokyo and Yokohama.

OVERSEAS TOUR EXPERIENCE

2011 May, BORNEO JAZZ FESTIVAL, Miri, Malaysia
2011 Oct, NANJING INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL, Nanjing, China
2012 Mar, CANADIAN MUSIC WEEK _ WINTER JAZZ FESTIVAL, Toronto, Canada
2013 Feb, INDIA TOUR with Dhruv Ghanekar/Sheldon D'Silva/Gino Banks, India
2013 Mar, CANADIAN MUSIC WEEK _ WINTER JAZZ FESTIVAL, Toronto, Canada
2013 Apr, MANGO JAZZ NIGHT, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia
2013 May, WORLD YOUTH JAZZ FESTIVAL, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2013 May, INDIAN JAZZ CLUB TOUR, Mumbai & Bangalore, India
2014 May, AMMAN JAZZ FESTIVAL, Jordan
2014 Aug, CHINA TOUR as a representative of Yokohama Jazz Promenade Festival
2014 Oct, JARASUM INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL, Korea
2015 Apr, EUROPEAN JAZZ TOUR with Joris Posthumus Quartet , Netherlands & Belgium
2015 June & July, FLAMENCO JAZZ TOUR with Ricardo Garcia Flamenco Guitar, France
2015 Sep, INDIA TOUR with Aman Mahajan Group, India
2016 Feb, INDIA TOUR with Aman Mahajan Group, India
2016 May, WORLD YOUTH JAZZ FESTIVAL, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2016 May, BORNEO JAZZ FESTIVAL, Miri, Malaysia
2016 August, Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Scotland UK
2016 August, BANSKO INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL, Bulgaria
2016 August, NISVILLE INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL, Serbia
2016 November, GOA INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL, India
2016 November, KOLKATA INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL, India
2016 November, PUNE INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL, India
2017 April, Joris Posthumus's Tokyo's Bad Boys Tour in EU, Belgium & Netherlands
2017 July, North Sea Jazz Festival, Netherlands
2017 August, Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Scotland UK
2018 April, Collaboration Concert with Great "Rosario Giuliani" & Legendary "Joe LaBarbera" in Japan
2019 May, WORLD YOUTH JAZZ FESTIVAL, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
2020 Feb, All Angels Music Festival, Hawaii USA
2020 June, Sile International Jazz Festival, Italia (Postponed DUE to COVID-19)
2020 Oct, Cairo International Jazz Festival, Egypt (Postponed DUE to COVID-19)
2021 Aug, Yippee-Ki-YAY Music E Festival, US/Worldwide

ARTICLES

<http://www.thescenemagazine.ca/cmw-2013-live-review-yuichiro-tokudas-ralyzzdig/>

<https://www.pri.org/stories/2011-06-15/japanese-jazz-artist-yuichiro-tokuda>

http://www.neomagazine.com/2012_01_january/78.html

<http://www.public-republic.net/nr-artist-of-the-week-ralyzz-dig/>

https://www.ca.emb-japan.go.jp/JapaneseSite/Kohobunka/2012events/kizuna_concert_12.htm

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5-mPOiV3T4I&feature=youtu.be&t=590>

<https://www.allaboutjazz.com/god-dwells-in-everything-yuichiro-tokuda-goodnessplus-records>

ACTIVITY/AWARDS

"The story of Japanese Jazz artist Yuichiro Tokuda" aired on BBC Radio America 2011/6/15.

Jan 2008: an award as the "New Face of the Year in Art & Culture" from the Chiba-City Government.

Jun 2011: "WINNER & Honorable Mention Award" in International Songwriting Competition 2010 Jazz Category.

Sep 2011: "FINALIST Award" in the UK Songwriting Contest 2011 Jazz & Blues Category.

Dec 2011: "FINALIST Award" in the USA Songwriting Competition 2011 Jazz Category.

Dec 2012: "FINALIST Award" in the UK Songwriting Contest 2012 Jazz & Blues Category.

May 2013 : " WINNER & Honorable Mention Award" in International Songwriting Competition 2012 Jazz Category.

May 2014 : " WINNER & Honorable Mention Award" in International Songwriting Competition 2013 Jazz Category.

Mar 2015 : Composed music for Japan's Major TV station BS-TBS established anniversary special program.

2016 : Casting as a saxophonist in Warner Brothers Movie.

2017 : Composed whole music for Japanese the forefront of Konicaminolta's planetarium

2019 : Composed whole music for Sega Toys's home planetarium project

Dec 2020: "FINALIST Award" in the USA Songwriting Competition 2020 Jazz Category.

Feb 2021 : Awarded "JAZZ JAPAN AWARD 2020 : Album Of The Year – SPECIAL AWARD"

May 2023 : " WINNER & Honorable Mention Award" in International Songwriting Competition 2022 Jazz Category.

ALBUM PRESS REVIEW

Initial Impluse (GNPR-1139/2007 release)

"The cutting edge of the present progressive form of Jazz" _Jazz Life Magazine (2007 Japan)

"The perfect blend of jazz fused with rock styles makes for truly the most appealing cross-genre grooving music. You might be wondering why we would feature him here.... Well, because his music is AMAZING.

Open your ears and your mind and listen to any one of his songs." _NEO Magazine (2012 New York)

Imagination Live @ Shinjuku PIT-INN (GNPR-1141/2010 release)

"Masterpiece", throughout the album, that's it!!" _CD Journal Magazine (2010 Japan)

"70 minutes powerful album!!" full of the enthusiasm and very unique tone and play style."

_Jazz Life Magazine (2010 Japan)

Imagination (GNPR-1142/2010 release)

"Imagination" is enormously impressive and definitely as excellent work as I assure it is ahead of a couple generations." _CD Journal Magazine (2010 Japan)

Crossing Colors (GNPR-1145/2013 release)

"Unmistakably their play is careening to the future while digging today's jazz space."

_Jazz JAPAN Magazine (2013 Japan)

"There is no band to play a comprehensive Jazz like them anywhere in the world so far. Masterpiece."

_CD Journal Magazine (2013 Japan)

"The new standard! The sound which is roused from races and bloods. Definitely the best masterpiece."

_Jazz Life Magazine (2013 Japan)

"Yuichiro Tokuda who continues the music which he believes on the world stage has an infinite possibility. "

_Jazz JAPAN Magazine (2013 Japan)

WIND (GNPR-1152/2018 release)

"It rocks my heart like a wind of one. It is neither gusts nor breeze. It is comfortable, but it is not just that, it has strength. This balance is exquisite. From Normandy to the universe, this wind keeps blowing everywhere." _Jazz JAPAN Magazine (2018 Japan)

"Contemporary jazz with its overwhelming energy and rich lyricism will not leave my ear once I hear it ... The real "sound" in the music is because what he learned in real experience will be reflected. He is a minstrel who travels the world and is a realist." _Jazz JAPAN Magazine (2018 Japan)

"In addition to the conventional jumping drive feeling, he will also show landscape observations in foreign countries, ethnicism which can tighten our hearts, hand clapping used for flamenco, and his sweet vocals. Looking for new grounds, keeping the spirit of nature but powerfulness, you can see the holding as a band that has always challenged growth and change. " _Tower Records Magazine/intoxicate (2018 Japan)

God dwells in everything (GNPR-1164/2020 release)

"Yuichiro Tokuda and his band RALYZZDIG, they took a close look ahead at the current crisis and the world after that, and created a magnificent lyric poem that could be called a guidepost. An unprecedented work brought about by under the COVID-19. I would like to recommend to everyone who is losing power and hope." _Jazz JAPAN Magazine (2020 Japan)

"I think Tokuda was also aware of it, but I remembered Coltrane's "A Love Supreme." Anyway, it is a complete album with a magnificent view of music and performance. Yuichiro Tokuda, a saxophonist born in 1981, is one of the most creative musicians today." _Jazz JAPAN Magazine (2020 Japan)

"I admire the spiritual strength and creativity that make up such a masterpiece. A satisfying work that Tokuda dedicated with all his heart and mind and strength." _Jazz JAPAN Magazine (2020 Japan)

"A masterpiece that depicts 2020 with music. Full of performances that show the high level of performance of the band and the strength of cohesion." _Jazz Life Magazine (2020 Japan)

From the International Jazz Festival REVIEW

"This is the dream team back up band for any producer or engineer."

_Canadian Music Week (2013 Toronto)

"Any modern Jazz fan who missed this band missed the best performance of the festival."

From CANADIAN MUSIC WEEK 2013(CMW) official web magazine "The Scene Magazine"

Yuichiro Tokuda RALYZZDIG was awarded CMW 2013 No.1 Best Performance Point "9.8" from more than 1000 bands. _Canadian Music Week (2013 Toronto)

DISCOGRAPHY

"Zero to 0" 2005

"Initial Impulse" 2007

"Urban Lights / Umi Toki Kaze Iro" 2007

"Imagination LIVE @ Shinjuku PIT-INN" 2010

"Imagination" 2010

"LIVE @ Akasaka B-flat" 2012

"Crossing Colors" 2013

"WIND" 2018

"God dwells in everything" 2020

Yuichiro Tokuda RALYZZDIG are...



Noriaki Hosoya
Bass

Shunichi Yanagi
Piano

Yuichiro Tokuda
Sax, Vocal

Naoto Suzuki
Guitar

Yota Tsukada
Drums