

## Kiyoshi Kitagawa

Bassist and composer Kiyoshi Kitagawa is an integral part of today's jazz scene. Born in Osaka, Japan in 1958, Kiyoshi began playing the guitar at the age of 14. He switched to the acoustic bass at the age of 19. Kiyoshi began his career by playing at various clubs in Kansai area, and quickly became the most sought-after bassist in Japan.

In October 1988, Kiyoshi relocated to New York City. Soon after, he met Winard Harper at Blue Note's jam session and joined the Harper Brothers. In September 1989, he appeared at the Village Vanguard with the group and their live recording "Remembrance: Live at The Village Vanguard" was extremely well received. That same year, Kiyoshi went on to work with Andy Bey as well.

By 1993, Kiyoshi established himself as a much in demand bassist on the New York City jazz scene. He has toured and recorded with the alto great Kenny Garrett with drummer Brian Blade as well as the Jimmy Heath Quartet, which he spent more than ten years as a regular bassist. That same year, he joined Kenny Barron Trio on the recommendation of a legendary drummer Ben Riley and has been working with him since then.

Kiyoshi also joined Ben Riley Quartet with Ted Dumber and Steve Nelson as well as Terell Stafford Quartet. In 1996, he formed The Trio with a versatile Japanese pianist, Makoto Ozone.

Demand for Kiyoshi's talents has led to work with legendary musicians including Tommy Flanagan, Kenny Kirkland, John Hicks, Ronnie Mathews, Mulgrew Miller, Steven Scott, Cedar Walton, Steve Wilson, Gary Bartz, Jaleel Shaw, Frank Wess, Eddie Henderson, Mike Rodriguez, Steve Turre, Steve Nelson, Brian Blade, Albert 'Tootie' Heath, Victor Lewis, Lewis Nash, Ben Riley, Jeff Watts and The Maria Schneider Orchestra, just to name a few.

Kiyoshi has recorded with many of the leading names in jazz and can be heard on numerous albums. A partial list includes Pete Minger "Look To The Sky", Jimmy Heath "You Or Me", Kenny Garrett "Triology", Makoto Ozone "The Trio" "Three Wishes" "Dear Oscar" "No Strings Attached", Terell Stafford "Fields Of Gold", Andy Bey "American Song", Miki Hayama "Prelude To A Kiss" "Wide Angle", Will Sellenraad "Balance", Jon Faddis "Teranga", and Kenny Barron "Images" "The Traveler".

In addition to being a highly dependable sideman, Kiyoshi has shown his manifold talents to be a composer as well as an arranger. As a leader, Kiyoshi has released five albums in Japan on the Atelier Sawano label including "Ancestry" (2004), followed by "Prayer" (2005), "Live at Tsutenkaku" (2006) which is released as a DVD, "Live in Japan" (2007) all featuring Kenny Barron and Brian Blade. His latest release was "I'm Still Here" (2007) featuring Danny Grissett and Brian Blade.

Besides these trio albums, his interest in expanding the full potential of the instrument has led him to record solo albums. His live recording of solo performance at the Big Apple jazz club in Japan was released in 2000 followed by studio recording of "Solo 2" in 2007 both from Music Information Records.

Kiyoshi Kitagawa currently resides in Brooklyn, NY where he remains active as a member of Kenny Barron Trio/Quintet, Jon Faddis Quartet, Ben Riley's Monk Legacy Septet and his own group.

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