

Yuji Yajima (Bassist/Composer/Arranger/Educator)



Japanese-born bassist Yuji Yajima enjoys an exceptional career as a performer, composer, arranger, and educator.

He has performed and/or recorded throughout Japan with well-respected artists like, Oscar Valdés, the percussionist and founder of the Grammy Awarded Cuban band Irakere, Akira Jimbo, the renowned jazz fusion drummer also featured in Newsweek Magazine as "one of the world's 100 most respected Japanese people," and many others.

Based in Tokyo area, he also leads his own bands, "AmaKha" and "Utage," featuring his original music and arrangements. Yajima currently performs as a regular member of: "Vocal-Eyes Session Band" led by Tommy Campbell, "Inspirits" led by Issei Noro, "Funky Ritsuco Version!" led by Ritsuco Endo, and "Kyoko Yamamoto Latin-Jazz Group."

You can hear him on the recent CD releases: Issei Noro "Inner Times" and other CD/DVDs of this band, WeiWei Wu "Nomad" by Warner Music Japan, J&O "My Dear" by Columbia Music Entertainment, among many others.

As a committed educator for the next generation, Yajima has published his first electric bass instruction book "Chops for Bass Line" by YAMAHA Music Media in 2008.

Born in Osaka, Japan in 1973, Yajima started out his musical studies at age 4 on piano, and age 5 on violin. At age of 9-10, he then enrolled after-school music class at the local music conservatory to learn music theory. He continued playing piano and violin until he took up electric bass at age 16 and six-string bass 2 years later. While attending KEIO University, he earned a reputation as one of the top performance/recording bassists in Tokyo/Yokohama area.

Since 2000, he has been leading his mentally and musically long-years home ground jazz trio "Utage," means "joyful and heartwarming hang out" in Japanese, featuring the pianist Masaki Hayashi and the drummer Tappy Iwase, and has released three albums in this band already. Currently Yajima devotes his passion to another his gospel oriented project "AmaKha" as well, featuring the singer Kawori Mishina.

Yajima can often be seen performing in some of Japanese famous concert halls and clubs, such as Blue Note, Billboard Live Osaka (former Blue Note Osaka), STB 139 (a.k.a. Sweet Basil Tokyo), Motion Blue Yokohama, SHIBUYA-AX, and others. As a "first-call" bassist, he never rests from performing with the likes of Iwao Furusawa, Toshihiro Nakanishi, Eric Miyashiro, to name a few.

(Last updated in Feb. 2018) More information available at [<http://yujiyajima.com>]