

unit asia

Jazz Concert 2010 in Ankara



*Formed by five remarkable Asian musicians,
Unit Asia will lead to new directions of Jazz
with a warm energy and creativity*

Musicians

Isao “Sankichi” Miyoshi (Guitars / Japan)
Koh Mr. Saxman (Saxophone / Thailand)
Hiroyuki Noritake (Drums / Japan)
Tay Cher Siang (Piano / Malaysia)
Shigeki Ippon (Bass / Japan)

Dates and Venues:

November 6, 2010, Saturday, 20:00
Ankara University Faculty of Letters
Farabi Hall – Sıhhiye/Ankara

November 8, 2010, Monday, 20:00
Turkish Japanese Foundation
Özdemir Sabancı Hall
Oran, Ankara

Free Entrance

A Perfect Combination of Five Top Asian Musicians!



“Unit Asia” is a multinational unit composed of five Asian musicians from Japan, Thailand and Malaysia. They display a perfect combination ever.

Five musicians with mutual faith, warm personalities and matchless performance capacities, jointly create an outstanding musical sensation. Under the leadership of Isao Miyoshi, their passion to the “Unit Asia” as a motive power, combined with their versatile sensitivities and ideas, as well as diverse musical elements such as rock, pop, folk/traditional music are incorporated into their original tunes in various styles presented by respective members. They create a unique music (jazz) in full of energy that transcends the framework such as nationalities, cultures and musical genres, and their performance always touches the heart of the audiences with a range of warm emotions and impressions.



Isao “SANKICHI” Miyoshi
Guitar / Japan

Isao Miyoshi started out on the guitar during his high school years, and developed an interest in jazz after entering college. In 1983, he made his debut with his own band and performed with predominant musicians. In 1992, he formed his own guitar trio to aim for further free style of guitar trio. They have performed in various live performances. His first album “SANKICHIZM”, released in 1995, won the highest praise as an outstanding work that breaks the jazz guitar trio’s concept. Among his various albums, “Pineapple Island” (1996) recorded with his sworn friend, Satoru Shionoya (pf) and other musicians; “Your Smile” (1998) with world’s number one harmonica player, Toots Thielemans; “SURPRISE” (2003) and the acoustic duo album “First Touch” (2006) are the most outstanding ones. Miyoshi has performed not only in Japan but has toured abroad extensively as well; in 2000 he participated in the “JAZZ GUITAR SUMMIT Concert”, held at Kennedy Center in Washington D.C., US and in 2001, he performed in Germany and France with his unit. His career has been enlarging into pop field since 1999, and particularly in concert tours with various artists such as Eikichi Yazawa (vo), he has gained a great reputation as a leading figure in music, displaying his ability in diverse genres. Isao Miyoshi is respected highly and draws lots of attention as one of the leading jazz guitarists of the Japanese jazz scene.

In Unit Asia, Miyoshi displays his prominent skills and rich musical capacity and leads this unit with his warm and broad-minded personality as the leader.



Koh Mr. Saxman
Saxophone / Thailand

Koh's first instrument was the "Khloi" (Thai Flute), which was taught him by his father. He experimented with many instruments during his childhood and deeply fascinated by the saxophone in his high school years. With his natural talent, combined with guidance of his music instructors, he became a professional musician at the age of 15. During his education at Chulalongkorn University, he was invited to join the contemporary Thai band, "Boy Thai" as a founding member. The success of the "Boy Thai" led him to joining many other leading bands, gradually made him one of the most sought-after studio musicians, and was invited to back up many well-known artists. In 2002, Koh released his first solo album "Mr. Saxman". The title of this album was inspired by the versatility of his music in a number of musical genres from jazz to pop, fusion, Latin, reggae, contemporary Thai and even country Thai music. One of the tracks, "Pavana"(My Prayer), of this album has topped several music charts and retained its popularity until today. The success of "Mr.Saxman" established him as Thailand's newest sensation on saxophone, which earned him several invitations from overseas. He had performed before enthusiastic audiences of Japan, Italy, Malaysia and Australia, etc. Koh also devoted his time to educating saxophonists of the new generation at several institutions, such as Mahidol University, Kasatesart University, etc. Furthermore, his music school, the "Sax Society" is a meeting point for jazz devotees, where they could exchange anything about sax and jazz. He is a super-artist represented in Thai music scene.

With his reliable and powerful performance ability and emotional rendering, Koh leads strong front-line of this unit together with Isao Miyoshi



Hiroyuki Noritake
Drums / Japan

Hiroyuki Noritake started playing drums in his early childhood, and spent his boyhood mastering all sorts of drumming styles. In 1985, while studying at Kobe University, he joined "THE SQUARE", a well-known Japanese fusion group and launched his professional career. Through his US tours, recording sessions abroad, and several live performances and recordings with various artists, he broadened his experience. They won the Japan Gold Disc Award in category of Jazz for ten times. Their activity was appreciated extensively both in Japan and abroad. He displayed his ability as a composer in his solo album "DREAMS CAN GO", which was released in 1999. In 2000, he left "THE SQUARE". Since then, he has been performing with versatile Japanese pop artists such as Misia (vo) and has been expanding his range of activities in various genres. In 2002, he performed as a guest with the Orchestre Lamoureux in Paris, which was conducted by Yutaka Sado and his rendering was appreciated highly. Afterwards, he has performed with several orchestras such as the Kansai Philharmonic and Siena Wind. His supple and diversified drumming in variety of genres earned him a well-deserved reliance. In 2004, he formed the "Synchronized DNA", a twin drum unit together with Akira Jimbo (drs). The future development of this unique unit draws lots of attention.

In Unit Asia, Noritake displays his supple and reliable performance skills and his groovy drumming breathes life into this unit.



Tay Cher Siang
Piano / Malaysia

Tay Cher Siang started his piano lessons like most people by learning classical music. He took up an interest in Jazz during his teenage years and began to pursue his musical journey as a jazz pianist. He received his Bachelor's degree in Music Performance and Masters Degree in Jazz Pedagogy from West Virginia University (WVU). His achievements include winning the WVU Young Artist Competition (2004) and receiving the HERF Top-Off and the Valerie Canady awards. He was the

Graduate Assistant for the Jazz Department in WVU, where he got the chance to direct the college's Jazz Big Band and various Small Group Ensembles. Throughout the years, Tay regularly performed as a soloist and also played with ensembles such as the WVU Big Band and the WVU Wind Symphony Orchestra. Tay was also awarded as the Young Artist Competition Winner. He has also given concerts with various groups as a classical and also jazz pianist. Other than performing, Tay both composes and arranges for big bands and small groups. Tay is currently teaching at UCSI University as well as at The Talent Makers in Kuala Lumpur. He has been active in the Kuala Lumpur's jazz scene since his return to Malaysia. He has performed with several units, such as the Greg Lyons Group and The Boplicity, and also backed up various vocalists such as Khadijah Ibrahim. Tay is a promising young jazz pianist from the Malaysian jazz scene, who draws lots of attention.

Tay displays his ability both as a composer and a pianist in Unit Asia and his sensitive and dynamic playing makes this unit's music filled with rich color.



Shigeki Ippon

Bass / Japan

Shigeki Ippon learned contrabass under Yoshio Nagashima at the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music. In 2000, he launched his performance career as a professional musician with his graduation. Since then, he has performed in many live performances, concerts of various artists such as Kiyohiko Semba (perc), Isao Miyoshi (gt), GONTITI, Hajime Mizoguchi (vc), Taro Hakase (vn), Ayaka Hirahara (vo), participated in numerous recording sessions with Japanese pop artists, commercials, TV jingles and soundtracks, and performed in several stages as a musician. Consequently, he has been extending his range of activities in various genres. With his supple musical capacity in both contrabass and electric bass and his prominent rendering ability from western classical music to jazz and pop, Shigeki Ippon is a remarkable artist of the coming generation.

As a pivot of rhythm in this unit, Ippon creates reliable and groovy rhythm combination with Hiroyuki Noritake.

Venues:

Ankara University Faculty of Letters
(A.Ü. Dil ve Tarih-Coğrafya Fakültesi)
Sıhhiye, Ankara

Turkish Japanese Foundation Culture Center
(Türk Japon Vakfı Kültür Merkezi)
Ferit Recai Ertuğrul Caddesi
No: 2 Oran, Ankara

This event is organized by the Japan Foundation and the Embassy of Japan, with the cooperation of Ankara University Faculty of Letters Department of Japanese Language and Literature, Turkish Japanese Foundation and Ankara Jazz Society.

