



GREG CHAKO

Guitarist/Composer/Questing Soul

"... emotionally rewarding and clearly developed. His melodic tunes are richly complex... intelligent, sensitive performances...Greg Chako is a world-class player!"

-Joseph Taylor, Soundstage

"A first-class straight ahead jazz guitarist with an attractive sound and a swinging style. The songs are well served by the musicians, the results sound fresh, relevant and lively."

-Scott Yanow, LA Jazz Scene

"...wonderful guitar, deeply satisfying...a trip 'round the world... relentless in the energy some real (and legitimate) groovin' happening here...True jazz aficionados will HAVE to have this one!" best all-round jazz" - without qualification, MOST HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!"

-Sari Kent, Celebrity Cafe

"A hard hitting date from a guitarist that's making sure he has a place in jazz that will be remembered."

-Chris Spector, Midwest Record

"When Chako solos, his lines are original and imaginative."

-Jim Carlton, Just Jazz Guitar



In 2003, after finishing a successful, steady jazz gig in China with singer Dee Dee McNeil, pianist Jack Holland, and bassist Donald Jackson; American guitarist Greg Chako moved to Japan with his Japanese wife (of 2 years) to start a new life. However, shortly after arriving in Japan, he discovered his beloved wife had terminal cancer. The shocking, all-consuming experience that followed caused a 2 year playing and recording hiatus. However, the death of his wife in 2004 threw Greg into recording again with completely new passion in 2005, starting with a double CD called *Where We Find Ourselves*, dedicated to his late wife and featuring all-original compositions.

Where We Find Ourselves is played by a tight, swinging horn ensemble; the fresh, varied arrangements are predominately mainstream, with splashes of Latin and World, and even a couple vocal tracks showing off Chakos` own lyrics, which are as thoughtful and supremely lyrical as his improvising. Less than a year later, he released his 7th CD, *Two's Company, Three's a Crowd*, a series of swinging duets of guitar/piano and guitar/vocal covers with featured live cuts. Chako is now focused on extending his prolific legacy of composing and recording with two new CD releases.

In 2007 Chako released his 8th CD, *Paint a Picture, Tell a Story*. This release documents the continued evolution of a masterful, expressive composer and his rich, story telling abilities conveyed through the jazz language. Featuring special guests Don Byron and Delfeayo Marsalis, the release spent time on the Jazzweek, CMJ and RMR Jazz Charts, included multiple Top Ten spots, and continues to enjoy critical acclaim from the Jazz community. His latest (2008) CD, *Everybody's Got a Name*, is his strongest yet, and promises to further elevate Greg's popularity as a guitarist, composer, and bandleader.

Born in Cincinnati Ohio in 1958, Greg took his first music lessons at the age of 9 on the accordion. Guitar soon became the instrument of choice with Hendrix an admired hero. After just one year of guitar lessons, Greg won 2nd place in the American Guild of Music contest, involving more than 1,000 contestants, and he also placed first in a local contest. Greg attended Berklee College of Music for three years on a partial scholarship, and played occasionally with top artists like Junior Cook, Bill Hardman, Othello Molineaux, Johnny Lytle, Bobby Watson, Herb Ellis, Jimmy Raney & others.

Moving to Hong Kong in 1992, Chako's professional music career blossomed. He played in Broadway musicals including *West Side Story*, a concert with the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, performed in clubs with Jazz greats Curtis Fuller and Richie Cole, and recorded his first CD *Everything I Love* in 1994, just before moving to the sunny, tropical island of Singapore. In Singapore, from 1994 up till his China gig in 2001, Greg recorded 4 more CDs (*Sudden Impact* in 1996, *Live at Raffles* in 1998, *Integration* in 2000, and *Integration II* in 2001), made 6 videos, a documentary movie, and appeared on TV and at major Jazz Festivals in the area. From his first gig there in 1994 with drummer Redd Holt and bassist Belinda Moody; he worked with NY singer Jean DuShon and bassist Vistor Gaskin, till finally in 1995, he landed his dream job that was to last for almost 7 years, leading his own trio at the world-famous Raffles Hotel.

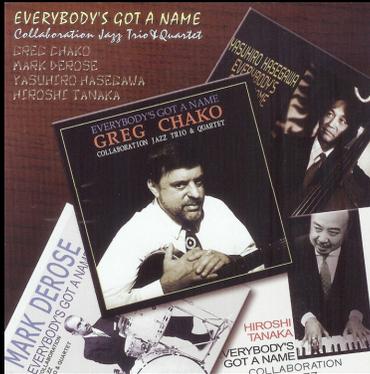
Greg's rocky life history has enhanced and matured his music. He's endured carpal tunnel syndrome, death, divorce, and life in foreign countries, and for a man who has been an egg-packer, construction-site worker, Industrial Real-Estate Broker, drug salesman, restaurant-bar dishwasher/gopher, Chef, English teacher, neighborhood activist, promoter/organizer, entertainment agent, Founder and Managing Director of a Pte. Ltd. Corporation, entrepreneur, and hauler of bricks and rocks, it's no wonder a reviewer said, "From World Music to Bossa Nova to Jazz, this remarkable guy is the epitome of eclectic. The life story of this extremely gifted guitarist has all the required ingredients to make for a super screen play!" Listen, and discover the message of Chako and his jazz poetry in the making!

Radio Promoter Contact:

John Alexander, Melodic Promotions
5385 Peachtree Dunwoody Rd. #845
Atlanta, GA. 30342
Tel. 404.474.4633
johnalexander@melodicpromotions.com

Media Contact:

Kari Gaffney, Publicist
P.O. Box 436 Evans, GA. 30809
706.294.9996
706.210.9453 fax
karionprod@knology.net
www.karigaffney.com



"These guys can play their asses off. There's joy, pain, heartbreak, and love within these songs."

-John Book, *The Run Off Groove*

"Chako moving incessantly with guitar splashes in rapid-fire motion. Fast and quick, but always seamless and fluid, the guitarist paints a peaceful landscape throughout."

-Jim Santella, *All About Jazz*

"This one of those rare discs that the jazz aficionado and the casual listener can both listen to and appreciate. - Recommended!"

-Joe Hartlaub, *Music-Reviewer*

"Chako's playing, warm, spontaneous, respectful in accompaniment and inventive in improvisation as he delivers each performance as a rounded Statement."

-Bill Donaldson, *Cadence Mag.*

"His prowess on the guitar is evident from the first lick you hear. Greg's original charts are rich and full of refreshing new melodies and rhythms."

-Ed Blanco, *Ejazz News*



GREG CHAKO

EVERYBODY'S GOT A NAME

"I think *Everybody's Got a Name* is my best release yet. The representations of CD covers on the front are loosely derived replicas of very famous jazz musicians CDs. The fonts, colors and styles, are based upon these famous jazz CDs. It's my way to convey that even though we don't have famous names and world-wide recognition, we deserve to be listened to seriously. It was also my way to show how influential these releases were to us an ensemble and to pay tribute to some of our favorite albums through the artwork concept." - **Greg Chako**

The original classic covers were:

Greg Chako (guitar) - The Incredible Jazz Guitar of Wes Montgomery

Hiroshi Tanaka (piano) - Taking Off - Herbie Hancock

Yasuhiro Hasegawa (bass) - Something in Common - Sam Jones

Mark DeRose (drums, percussion) - Jazz Showcase - Philly Joe Jones

Everybody's Got a Name showcases Chako's dexterity and superior abilities as a jazz guitarist in a small combo setting. On recent previous releases, Chako purposely focused on a more compositional presentation, creating songs that showcased each cut as a story rather than focusing on individual players. Chako's latest release brings us back to the core trio, and highlights Chako and his ensemble as an interactive, action-reaction, strongly communicative combo. Chemistry can never be replaced by brand name players and Chako and his ensemble drive that message home with this sublimely mature and poignant release.

Two Chako originals kick off the release. "Boppin` At Berlitz" has a relaxed, somewhat classic Monk groove, and "Bop-n-Swing Thing", a Parker-esque bop tune; both clearly exhibit Chako's command of his stringed instrument. Chako explores the complete range of harmonic ideas and lines with his playing. From the first notes, you immediately know you are about to embark on a highly enjoyable journey.

Chako's personal favorites on this CD are the highly exciting and rhythmic Latin-Jazz title track "Everybody's Got a Name," the intensely beautiful, piano-guitar duet "All Roads Lead Home," and the open and airy "Yamanashi Snow." Like most of his work, this release features a variety of textures, colors and rich harmonies. "Apache Junction" is an up-tempo swinger that is derived from the classic standard "Cherokee." On the Latin side Chako has created a romantic and sensuous rendition of "The Lamp is Low," along with two other fabulously arranged bossa novas, George Benson's "Mimosa," where Chako lives up to every moment of every note with clear and alluring lines, and "Felicidade," a rhythmically enticing and be-fitting tribute to Jobim.

A blues is the place where players truly show their soulful side, and Chako and crew step out with sass and class on the swingin' "Blues for Redd." Swinging hard in a heavy groove, Chako communicates effortlessly with his impressive vocabulary of the jazz language, which sets this gentleman head and shoulders above the crowded forest of jazz guitar led combo's.

Chako employs, not just the ordinary classic combo sounds, but the use of modern harmony and complex driving rhythms. His masterful command of compositional canvases coupled with years in the trenches of playing and experimenting, has birthed a release destined to be a classic jazz recording for years to come. A CD not to be missed; each player is a master at their instrument, bringing soul-stirring performances to each cut, truly a release to be increasingly enjoyed over and over again. Chako and his ensemble shine like a beacon of light; like a cleansing breath of fresh air, renewing your belief that there is more to be said in the classic jazz vernacular.

Available At:
CD Baby.com and
North Country Distributors

Greg's Website:
www.gregchako.com

Available:
May 2008