

To Whom It May Concern:

Mint 400 Records & Raining Music, their jazz subsidiary, are proud to be re-releasing the entire catalog of Greg Chako, the extraordinary jazz guitarist. After re-releasing the masterpiece "Integration", "Sudden Impact", "Where We Find Ourselves", "Paint A Picture, Tell A Story" and "Friends, Old & New" we now focus on one of the highlights of Chako's career, "Tokyo Live!". This album adds to radio through Pirate! Radio Promotion on February 13th, 2023, we are sending you one of the CD's from our limited edition pressing if you would like a hard-copy, or you may download full quality wavs from Pirate! Radio Promotion. This release was pulled from a special performance in June 2008 with Gene Jackson (Drums), Brent Nussey (Bass) and Hiroshi Tanaka (Piano) and is fully remastered.

One of the chief highlights of my live performance experience in Japan was playing with Philadelphian-born drummer *Gene Jackson*. Gene and I hit it off from the very first downbeat, and to this day, he's one of my favorite drummers to play with. I had been performing often with Japanese pianist *Hiroshi Tanaka* when I first met Gene. Hiroshi recorded on two of my albums, *Everybody's Got a Name* and *Two's Company, Three's a Crowd*. After I brought Gene to Hiroshi's attention, the three of us began playing together as a core trio. As the only Japanese native of the trio, Hiroshi helped organize gigs and the Japanese sidemen. In 2008, we did two shows that were particularly memorable.

One was March 29th at Yokohama's *Bar Bar Bar*, a wonderful jazz club where I was (gratefully) in rotation, and this performance was televised live for a TV show called, *Yokohama Sounds*. The other was one of my performances at Tokyo's *JZ Brat* on June 19th. Both of these shows featured a very receptive audience and a stellar line-up of myself leading on guitar, *Hiroshi Tanaka* on piano, *Gene Jackson* on drums, and Canadian bassist *Brent Nussey* (one of the top bassists in Japan and formerly with *Diana Krall*) rounding out the quartet.

These performances were special because of the overall quality: the venues were great, the audience was great, and my music was brought to life by some of the best musicians I've ever had the opportunity to play with. The chemistry and mutual respect among us on stage is evident. I am gratified that both of these shows were captured on video and will be released on two albums. The first, scheduled for release in early 2023, is of the June '08 show at *JZ Brat* and will be titled, *Greg Chako - Tokyo Live!*

These live recordings capture me in my prime as a performance artist on the Japanese jazz scene and incidentally, are the first records I've ever made with the guitar, piano, bass & drums quartet format.

- **Greg Chako**

"...This is music that transcends geographic boundaries and cultures and communicates the happiness and friendship that all music should provide... well-crafted, harmonically strong, with catchy, memorable melodies... Chakos' tone and phrasing are exceptional!" -

Professor Vince Lewis, for Just Jazz Guitar, USA

"...a trip around the jazz galaxy... I think it's safe to say that Greg Chako and his magnificent band are one of the world's best kept secrets... don't hesitate in seeking out this essential jazz experience." - **Keith 'MuzikMan' Hannaleck, JazzReviews**

"His lines are inventive, lyrical and uncluttered, and his tone is very warm and clear. As a writer he has a talent for scoring long, involved melodies that open like wings into the solo spaces. He employs tension and release masterfully, with a potent combination of cross rhythms and kicks, guaranteed to keep listeners attention. Chakos' tunes are well-crafted, harmonically strong, with catchy, memorable melodies, unlike many contemporary offerings today. - (Quoted from *Cadence Magazine*, *Jazz Journal*, and *Just Jazz Guitar*)



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