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BRILLIANT
CLASSICS

SAKAMOTO

For Mr Lawrence

PIANO MUSIC

Jeroen van Veen
piano



Ryuichi Sakamoto b.1952
For Mr Lawrence Piano Music

CD1	74'35	CD2	62'30	CD3	74'45	CD4	68'11
1. Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence	4'38	1. The Last Emperor, version 1	4'52	1. Thousand Knives*	6'02	1. Amore	5'40
2. Fountain	2'38	2. The Last Emperor, version 2	5'44	2. 1919*	6'28	2. Lost Child	4'44
3. Solitude Theme	4'31	3. Seven Samurai - Ending Theme	5'40	3. Batavia*	1'04	3. Opus	5'05
4. Dancing in the Sky	1'13	4. High Heels Main Theme	4'05	4. Germination	2'30	4. Sonatine	4'02
5. Asience-fast piano	2'35	5. M.A.Y. In the Backyard	5'15	5. A Hearty Breakfast*	1'26	5. Intermezzo	4'42
6. The Sheltering Sky Theme	5'12	6. Zero Landmine (piano version)	5'46	6. Before the War*	2'01	6. Lorentz and Watson	3'40
7. Solari	4'09	7. The Revenant- Main Theme	2'05	7. The Seed And The Sower	5'23	7. Choral No.1	2'32
8. Gohatto	4'20	8. Tibetan Dance	4'30	8. A Brief Encounter*	4'06	8. Choral No.2	2'23
9. Yamazaki 2002	3'22	9. Behind the mask	3'24	9. Ride Ride Ride	2'03	9. Bachata	7'42
10. Ubi	3'34	10. Blu	6'32	10. The Fight	1'37	10. Chanson	3'03
11. Andata	4'44	11. Rain	4'14	11. Dismissed, Assembly	2'46	11. Distant Echo	6'23
12. Aubade	1'44	12. The Land Song-Music		12. Beyond Reason	1'23	12. Aqua	4'30
13. SILK Endroll	5'04	for Artelligent City	5'15	13. Sowing The Seed	1'52	13. Energy Flow	4'28
14. Koko	4'49	13. Dear Liz	4'02	14. Last Regrets	2'01	14. Put your hands up	4'58
15. mizu no naka no bagatelle	4'23			15. The Seed	1'27	15. Railroad Man	4'09
16. Reversing	3'30			16. Tong Poo	5'40		
17. Stepfather	2'31			17. Happy End	7'43		
18. Shining Boy & Little Randy	5'54			18. Kai Koh	5'39		
19. Litany	5'32			19. Gohatto, piano version	3'52		
				20. Dear Liz	4'10		
				21. Castalia	5'21		

CD5	65'04		
1. Eight Themes of Eight	3'02	9. Parolibre	4'55
2. I have to buy a new pair of shoes	2'22	10. Sweet Revenge	3'55
3. On the boat	4'27	11. Tatorso	2'56
4. Tamago 2004	2'23	12. Tango	5'05
5. Before Long	1'39	13. Bibo no Aozora	6'41
6. Loneliness	1'53	14. Floating Along	5'47
7. Perspective	5'31	15. A Flower is not a Flower	6'12
8. Ex Jazz	2'03	16. Sayonara	3'21
		17. High Tide	2'43

Jeroen van Veen *piano*
 * with Sandra van Veen *piano*

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 Produced by: Van Veen Productions
 Executive Producer: Jeroen van Veen
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 Photo Jeroen van Veen: David de Haan
 Photo Sandra van Veen: Janey van Ierland
 Photo piano: Jeroen van Veen (Garden-Pernisssimo, Pernis)
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Ryuichi Sakamoto is an internationally renowned music composer, born in the city of Tokyo, Japan on the 17th January, 1952. Over the last three decades he has worked on numerous collaborative, solo- and film albums, winning numerous awards for his contributions to the world music industry. Sakamoto found a particular appeal in the electronic music setting, later experimenting with a number of genres such as New Wave, Ambient and Minimalism. Having been educated in ethnic music, particularly South Asian and African music, from the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music in 1970, Sakamoto began his career playing the piano, creating patterns, phrases and innovative arrangements before finally joining his first commercial electronic pop band in 1978, called Yellow Magic Orchestra.

Some of his earliest contributions came in the form of a top-charting album after the band's name, producing some stunning singles such as Yellow Magic (Tong Poo) (1978) and Computer Game/Firecracker (1978). Together with some other songs of the band like Technopolis (1979) and Rydeen (1979), the band is known to have contributed significantly towards the shaping of modern genres of Electronic Pop, Hip Hop and Techno. Around the same time, Sakamoto worked on his first solo album, titled Thousand Knives of Ryuichi Sakamoto (1978), effectively blending in a host of electronic music techniques and uniquely synthesizing impressive, durable and consistent sounds. Not long after, Sakamoto released an influential single as part of his 1980 B-2 Unit album, called Riot in Lagos, which was known to be one of the top 50 historical songs in dance music. Throughout the 1980s, Sakamoto began collaborating with a number of international artists, most notably composing singles such as Bamboo Houses/Bamboo Music with David Sylvian and Ikenai Rouge Magic with Kiyoshiro Imawano, the latter immediately top-charting billboards. After collaborating on a host of albums in the early 1990s, such as Heartbeat (1991) and Sweet Revenge (1994), Sakamoto experimented with Latin music in Smoochy (1995) and 1996 (1996). Two years later, he released Discord (1998), featuring some highly electronic and intrinsically decorated tracks that made international headlines. Some

of his recent works were in partnership with cellist Jaques Morelenbaum and Alva Noto, with albums such as Casa (2001) and Vrioon (2002) featuring increased digital manipulation and electronic minimalism techniques.

Apart from his revered works in the music industry, Sakamoto has also worked on a number of film scores, most notably director Nagisa Oshima's Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence (1983), Bernardo Bertolucci's The Last Emperor (1987) and The Revenant (2015). His incredible sense of musical direction bearing in mind the thematic contexts of these films won him several awards, all the while working on several other film scores for Tacones lejanos (High Heels) (1991) and Gohatto (1999).

Ryuichi Sakamoto's brilliance and ingenuity became apparent at a very early age, shimmering itself continually through his 35-year career. He enjoys singing and writing occasionally, apart from composing pieces for piano. His works profoundly highlighted important transformations in music and has reached a wide audience, ultimately contributing to the numerous sets of awards he has won in the past.

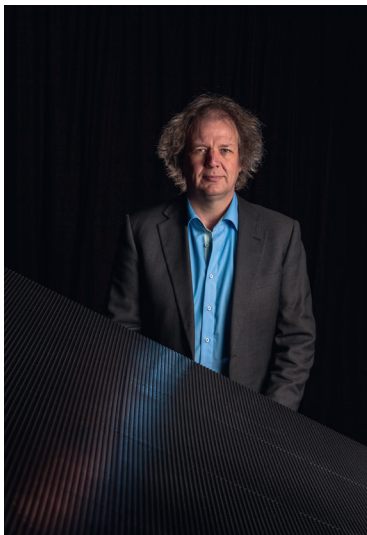
www.sitesakamoto.com

On this album I'm playing covers by M. Sakamoto; his performances are often partially improvised and the scores that are available are different from his live versions; a specific difference between Jazz and Classical Music. When recording these pieces I finished three volumes when I got a new book with much better arrangements! So I decided to start over, and take the new arrangements.

But some versions are quite different; but interesting to let you hear both the versions like "Gohatto" and "The Last Emperor". When listening to Mr. Sakamoto you will hear many influences by Classical Composers such as Chopin (Ubi), Bach (Andata, Solari), Glass (Bibo no Aozora) Satie (Opus), Brahms (Intermezzo), Ravel (Bachata).

The collection starts with maybe the most known piece by Mr. Sakamoto; Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence, followed by a set of relative mellow, slow music pieces. The second volume opens with two versions of the emotional film music from The Last Emperor. Mr. Sakamoto himself is often using an extra pre-programmed piano for more possibilities in live performances; on volume three on this album I collected these songs starting with Thousand Knives. This pulsating piece has many layers and has a fast and energetic mood. 1919 is a score for two pianos (the second piano played by Sandra van Veen) and is in a typical Steve Reich style; building up a pattern that is repeated all piece long, and on which all the layers are build. Volume four and five has the remaining pieces; but Mr Sakamoto is still composing, so volume 6 and more could be added later! His piano scores on this Album give a wide perspective on his musical career; his ability to create various atmospheres, ranging from introvert quasi-minimal pieces to wild and expressive piano compositions. When playing the music of Sakamoto it mostly reminds me of the musical world of Maurice Ravel, they both love the major seventh in harmonies so much. On the other hand is the music on these albums so open that listening to this music opens up your mind and provides you space to think and create...

Jeroen van Veen



Jeroen van Veen (1969) started playing the piano at the age of 7. He studied at the Utrecht Conservatory with Alwin Bär and Håkon Austbø. In 1993 he passed the Performing Artists' Exam. Van Veen has played with orchestras conducted by Howard Williams (Adams), Peter Eötvös (Zimmermann), Neal Stulberg (Mozart & Bartok) and Robert Craft (Stravinsky). He has played recitals in Europe, Russia, Canada & the USA. Van Veen attended master classes with Claude Helffer, Roberto Szidon, Ivan Klánsky and Leonid Hambro. He was invited to several festivals; Reder Piano Festival (1988), Festival der Kunsten in Bad Gleichenberg (1992), Wien Modern (1993), Holland Dance Festival (1998, 2010) Lek Art Festival (1996-2007). Van Veen recorded for major Radio- and Television companies. In 1992, Van Veen recorded his first CD as Piano duo Van

Veen. In 1995 Piano duo Van Veen made their debut in the United States. They were prize-winners in the prestigious 4th International Murray Dranoff Two Piano Competition in Miami, Florida. After this achievement they toured the United States and Canada many times. The documentary "Two Pianos One Passion" (nominated with an Emmy Award 1996) portrays them as a duo. In 2016 Van Veen was awarded with the NPO Radio 4 2016 Award, for his efforts and promotion of classical music beyond the concert halls. His lie-down (ligconcert) concerts were praised as an example how classical music can attract new audiences.

The various compositions by Van Veen may be described as Minimal Music with different faces, Crossovers to Jazz, Blues, Soundscape, Avant-Garde, Techno, Trance and Pop Music. His Minimal Preludes for piano, and his NLXL are some of his most played pieces worldwide. His latest Minimal Piano Concerto Continuum was a great success. In 2015 he premiered his Incanto nr 2 in the Amsterdam Concertgebouw with Sandra van Veen.

Currently Mr. Van Veen is director of Van Veen Productions, Chairman of the Simeon ten Holt Foundation, Pianomania Foundation and artistic director of several music festivals. He is also active as Overseas Artistic Director in the Murray Dranoff Two Piano Competition based in Miami. Over the last 25 years Van Veen recorded more than 180 CD's and 5 DVD's, mostly for Brilliant Classics. His discography includes' Adams, Einaudi, Glass, JacobTV, Minimal Piano Collections, Nietzsche, Nyman, Pärt, Reich, Riley, Satie, Stravinsky, Tiersen, Ten Holt, Van Veen, Yiruma and many others.

Van Veen is also praised for his productivity some say; 'the man who records faster than his shadow'.

www.jeroenvanveen.com · www.vanveenproductions.com

"Dutch pianist and composer, Jeroen van Veen, the leading exponent of minimalism today"

Alan Swanson (Fanfare)

"Jeroen van Veen has for many years been a powerhouse in the piano world of the Netherlands and beyond"

Dominy Clements (Musicweb-International)

"The Maximal Minimalist Missionary"

Raymond Tuttle (Fanfare)



Sandra van Veen studied with the Norwegian pianist Håkon Austbø at the Conservatory in Utrecht, graduating in 1992.

She made her professional debut with her husband Jeroen in a performance of *Canto Ostinato* during the Lek Art Festival (Culemborg). The concert was recorded live, with the CD selling in more than 40 countries worldwide. Many more CDs and concert engagements followed after this success.

Sandra has built much of her career on performing the music of Ten Holt, but she also plays other kinds of repertoire, ranging from classical works like *Carmina Burana*, *The Planets* and *Rhapsody in*

Blue to tangos and *Tubular Bells* (Mike Oldfield) for four pianos. She has premiered several pieces by Dutch composers such as J. Andriessen (in Russia) and Ten Holt (in Canada), and has performed as far afield as Miami and Novosibirsk (Russia). She takes part in many projects in Holland as well as abroad, and has also recorded many CDs for various labels, with several of her concerts and projects having been broadcast on radio, television and the internet. A highly respected teacher, she is a co-founder of the Lek Art Foundation and the Simeon ten Holt Foundation. She runs her own company 'De Walnoot', which is based in Culemborg, The Netherlands.
www.pianoduo.org



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