

IKUMI KOYAMA

THE THINGS IN THE PAST

RELEASE DATE: FEB 25, 2022
EM02
UPC/EAN: 64315745119

The Things In The Past is the impressive debut album from Japanese jazz singer and pianist, **Ikumi Koyama**, and introduces a highly accomplished young musician who has a clear idea of her own identity coupled with a time-honoured and deep respect for her chosen idiom.

Ikumi arrived in London in February 2020 at a difficult time. Despite Lockdown restrictions, however, she was able to squeeze in some gigs in London, and in March 2021, she assembled an impressive cast of musicians and brought her own fresh and inventive ideas to the session. Her rapport with guitarist, **Alban Claret** is a joy to hear throughout.

Amongst her vibrant take on some well-known standards, her rendition of Lorenz Hart and Richard Rodger's 'Blue Moon' is a knockout performance, Ikumi is keen to bring the diversity of the traditional and the contemporary. It should therefore come as no surprise that the singer/pianist also turns to her homeland with two compositions from Japanese composer, Joe Hisaishi. Hisaishi is best known for his Studio Ghibli film soundtracks, and Ikumi perfectly captures the composer's intent in her arrangements of the optimistically funky 'The Name Of Life' (from the film, 'Spirited Away') and the lilting melody of 'Merry Go Round Of Life' from Howls Moving Castle.

Not to be outdone, Ikumi brings two of her own pieces with the title track that she describes as having "a groove that reminds me of '80s jazz funk and soul" and the delicate intricacies of 'Hopeful' that incorporate Oriental melodies to "create a healing texture".

Born in Yokohama, Ikumi began her musical journey on the piano at the age of two. Becoming interested in jazz, she went on to study jazz piano at Shobi University. Continuing her musical education, she enrolled as an exchange student at New York City College for a semester, also taking the opportunity to study with the "Master of Bebop", the late Barry Harris and actively participated in jam sessions whenever the opportunity arose. Since graduating Ikumi has toured and performed in Australia, Taiwan and her native Japan.

Throughout this impressive and warm recording, Ikumi reveals a herself to be a young artist steeped in jazz past and present with an eye on her own place in the future of the music.

CREDITS:

Ikumi Koyama
vocals/piano

Alban Claret
guitar

Tom Mason
bass

Kuba Miazga
drums

Recorded at
Studio 45, London

Engineered by
Greg Dowling

Mixed by
Greg Dowling

Mastered by
Russ Hepworth-Sawyer

Produced by
Greg Dowling

TRACK LISTING:

Don't Know Why - UKSDY2150101

The Things In The Past - UKSDY2150102

Fly Me To The Moon - UKSDY2150103

The Name Of Life - UKSDY2150104

Merry Go Round Of Life - UKSDY2150105

Wives and Lovers - UKSDY2150106

That Old Feeling - UKSDY2150107

Will You Still Be Mine - UKSDY2150108

Hopeful - UKSDY2150109

Blue Moon - UKSDY2150110

