

Akiko - Rockin' Jivin' Swingin' (2017)

Written by bluesever

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01. *Come On-A My House* (1:57) 02. *I'm Gonna Sit Right Down And Write Myself A Letter* (2:26) 03. *Relax Max* (2:42) 04. *What A Little Moonlight Can Do* (3:11) 05. *Fools Fall In Love* (2:46) 06. *Rum And Coca Cola* (3:09) 07. *I'm Walkin'* (2:35) 08. *Exactly Like You* (2:30) 09. *Blues No.8* (4:04) 10. *Sh-Boom* (2:27) 11. *Mr. Sandman* (2:30) 12. *I've Got You Under My Skin* (3:50) 13. *Goody Goody* (4:16) Akiko - vocals with Gentle Forest Jazz Band Blue Moon Quartet feat. Gentle Forest Sisters Chai-Chii Sisters Fats & Fats

Jazz singer Akiko has a brand new album out now, of rockin', jivin' and swingin' songs (as the title says!) from the 40's and 50's. Featured musicians include Gentle Forest Jazz Band, Blue Moon Quartet, Fats & Fats, and also female chorus groups Chai-Chii Sisters and Gentle Forest Sisters.

Tokyo born Akiko started playing piano at age of 4. She started to listen to rock / punk music, when she was a junior high school student, & then began to take her interest in various kinds of music, including 70s disco music, 60s oldies, 50s rock + country and western. Above all those music, she was especially inspired by old black music like jive, jump blues & doo wop. At age of 18, she happened to listen to Sarah Vaughan & Ella Fitzgerald thus, discovering jazz. Afterward, she started to sing as a professional at Jazz Club in Tokyo, when she was a university student.

In the year 2001, Akiko became the first Japanese jazz singer to sign with the renowned jazz label, Verve Records. She recorded her first album "Girl Talk" (2001) in France with the famous French producer, Henri Renaud, released in June the same year.

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She was initially famous for her repertoire of over 500 standard jazz songs, but also for her flexibility towards different genres, always molding in new styles for each album she releases. Other than in Japan, she has recorded in Paris, London, New York, Rio De Janeiro, and Oslo.

In previous albums, she has worked with producers such as Swing Out Sister, Tatsuo Sunaga, Yasuharu Konishi (of Pizzicato Five), Bugge Wesseltoft (of Jazzland), et al. At the same time, she has participated as guest vocalist for artists in different genres such as [re:jazz], Hajime Yoshizawa, Studio Apartment, Quasimode, and more.

Through these many collaborations, she has met with various artists, musicians, and producers from many different genres. In 2009, she released a tribute album for "London Nite", a famous rock party in Tokyo, which she has loved since she was in her teens. As an adviser for the album, she invited Kensho Onuki, the man who brought "London Nite" to life, and through the album, she showed her roots in music is actually in rock and not jazz.

Not only a singer, she is also known and praised for her ability as a producer, writing and arranging songs, and also direction for all artwork on her albums. ---discogs.com

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