

Release Date: October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019

# TAEKO CONTEMPLATION

Internationally-acclaimed Jazz songstress from Japan, TAEKO, releases her 4th album in the US as a leader on October 10th.

In TAEKO's own words:

"This album shows my true love and dedication to the African-American classical art form called jazz, as a singer who came from Japan where this music is truly loved."

With a never-ending stream of musical ideas and fluidity of delivery that shows years of studying her craft, TAEKO has built a distinctively unique approach to jazz in addition to mastering the traditional vocal and instrumental aspects. This album features songs written by the beloved jazz greats such as Chick Corea, Bill Evans, Benny Golson, Mal Waldron, and Billie Holiday, with TAEKO's unique point of view and arrangement.

The album starts off with the tribute to this year's centennial celebration of Art Blakey, with TAEKO's arrangement of the Japanese titled Cedar Walton Jazz Messenger classic "Ugetsu".

The title track, McCoy Tyner's "Contemplation", continues Taeko's exploration of the Doug Carn songbook. Taeko's arrangement of the song adds Sumie Kaneko's koto (Japanese 13-string harp) to the group, giving the pensive piece a distinctive Eastern tinged meditative flavor

## Track Info:

1. UGETSU: FANTASY 4:53
2. LEFT ALONE 5:48
3. CONTEMPLATION 7:33
4. GRACIOUS 4:54
5. HAMABE-NO-UTA 4:22
6. THE SONG IS YOU 5:21
7. BETCHA BY GOLLY, WOW 4:40
8. WALTZ FOR DEBBY 4:42
9. THE SUN DIED 3:55
10. HIGH WIRE 4:17
11. I REMEMBER CLIFFORD 6:50

## Personnel:

TAEKO - Vocal  
Theo Hill - Piano  
François Moutin - Bass  
Victor Jones - Drums  
Guest: Sumie Kaneko - Koto

Producers: TAEKO, Victor Jones, Jeff Jones  
Executive Producer: Michael Wolk



## Biography:

TAEKO moved to New York City from Shiga, Japan in the late 90's and quickly garnered the nickname "Songbird" from the NYC Jazz elite. With a stunning four octave range, she sings with "deep soulfulness reminiscent of Anita Baker with sophisticated scatting a la Ella" as Jazz critics describe.

Frequent touring with her own group in addition to being featured by Jazz giants such as Doug Carn, Victor Jones, Tommy Campbell and Stafford Hunter, little is left to doubt how TAEKO has earned masterful musicality and built a dedicated fan base in both the U.S. and overseas. Growing up in Japan, she was inspired early on by the traditional Japanese music her father and grandfather sang, and has been singing as long as she can remember. TAEKO's interest in American music was piqued while still a young child. In her formative musical years she counts traditional jazz, modern American music, and Eastern music among her influences in shaping her contemporary vocal style to this day.

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