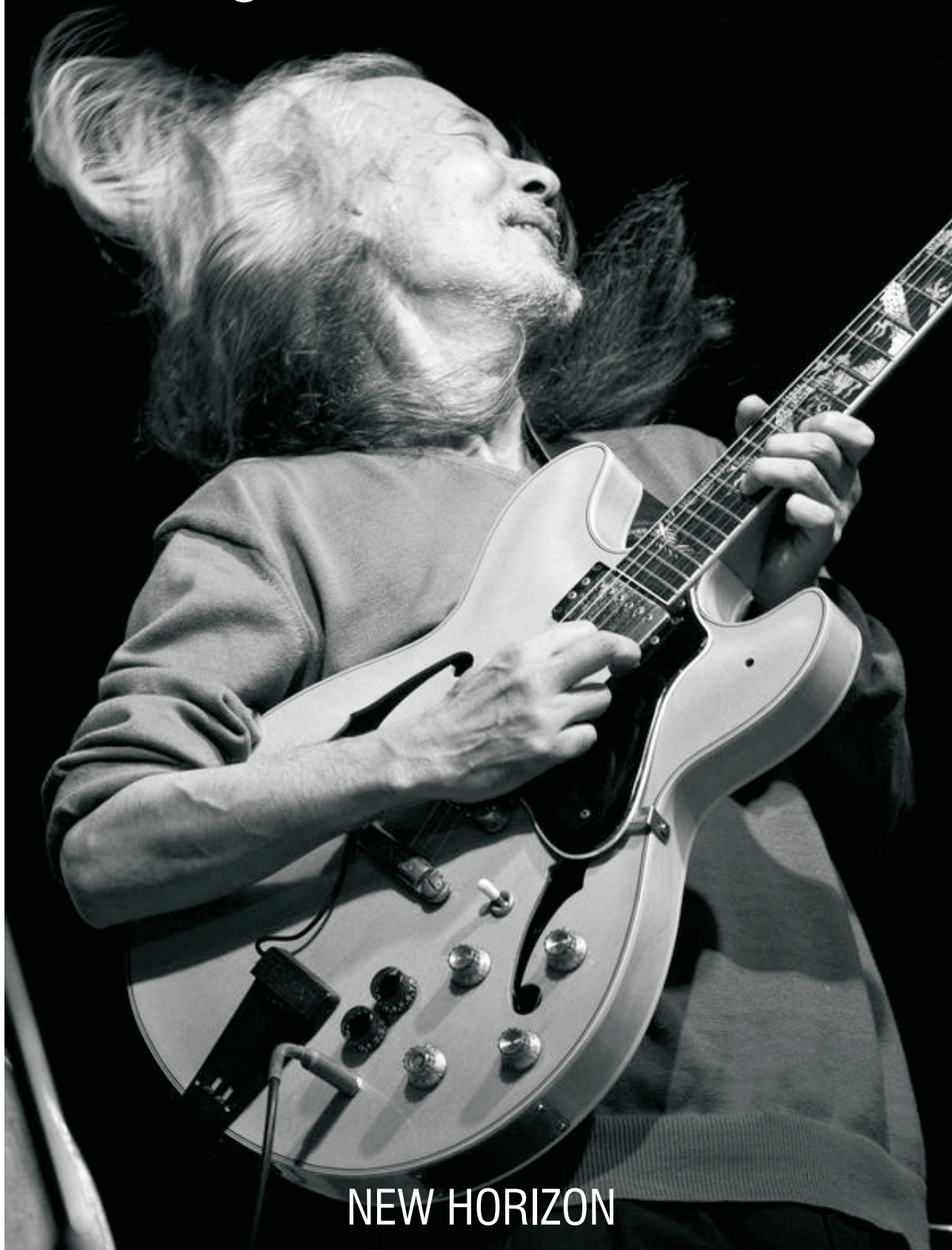


# Ryo Kawasaki



NEW HORIZON



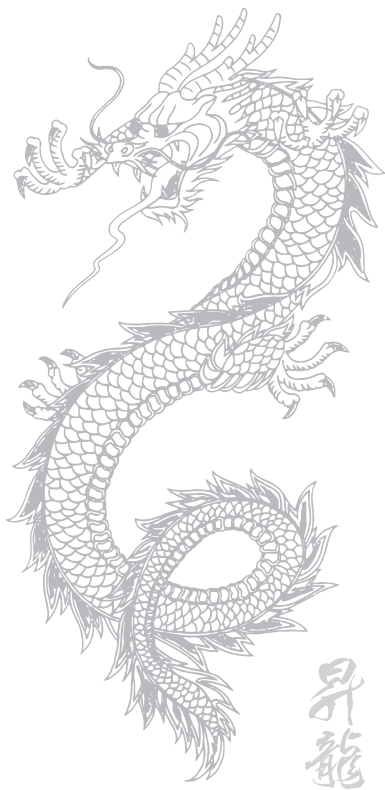
# Ryo Kawasaki

Ryo Kawasaki (born February 25, 1947) chose a career as a jazz fusion guitarist after spending some years studying as a scientist. During the 60s he played with various Japanese jazz groups and also formed his own bands. In the early 70s he came to New York where he settled and found steady work in very distinguished company, including the bands of Gil Evans, Elvin Jones, Chico Hamilton, label but marketed in the United States by his own company. Thanks to his long and wide experience, Kawasaki is able to switch with apparent ease between hard bop and jazz-rock. His playing is notable for its fluency and a sometimes hard-hitting style.





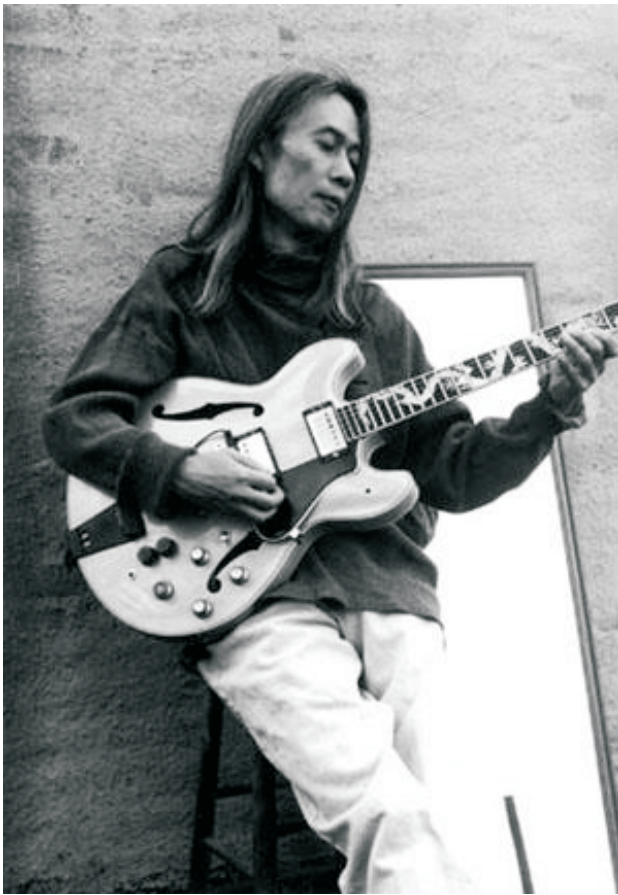
# Ryo Kawasaki



**Ryo Kawasaki** may be best-known as a premier jazz guitarist, as exemplified on one of his his recent albums (Sweet Life on Satellites Records), but by skillfully mixing sound with science, he also has built a reputation as the quintessential "supermodern" artist who is as much an inventor and engineer as a musician.

His multi-faceted career has included being an electronics engineer, physics student, top studio session guitarist, amateur astronomer, semi-professional-level pool player, mainstream jazz guitarist, music software computer programmer, rhythm-track specialist, engineer, arranger, record company executive, and producer of many musical styles (jazz, acid jazz, hip-hop, dance, Brazilian, acoustic instrumental).

Born in Toyko, Japan, Ryo (pronounced like Rio) came to the United States and settled in New York City in 1973. He immediately became a sought-after sideman in the jazz scene and soon was touring and recording with such talents as Gil Evans, trumpeter Ted Curson, drummers Elvin Jones and Chico Hamilton, pianist JoAnne Bracken, flutist Bobbie Humphries, singer Joe Lee Wilson, saxophonist Dave Liebman and other jazz greats. Kawasaki's discography contains some 30 solo albums as well as producing or being featured on more than 30 additional projects.



In year 2003, Kawasaki has further expanded his live appearances into Russia and Baltic region Jazz Festivals. His current quartet has appeared at Rigas Ritmi Jazz Festival in June 26-27, 2003 in Riga/Latvia as well as Capahck (Saransk) Jazz Ark Festival Oct 10-12, 2003, Saransk is a Capital of Mordovia Republic located 1,000 km east from Moscow. He also appeared with flutist Chip Shelton and Saxophonist Ray Blue at Nõmme Jazz Festival 2003 Oct 24/25 in Estonia. Aside from these festivals, he has been appearing many other jazz venues in Baltic and Scandinavian countries.

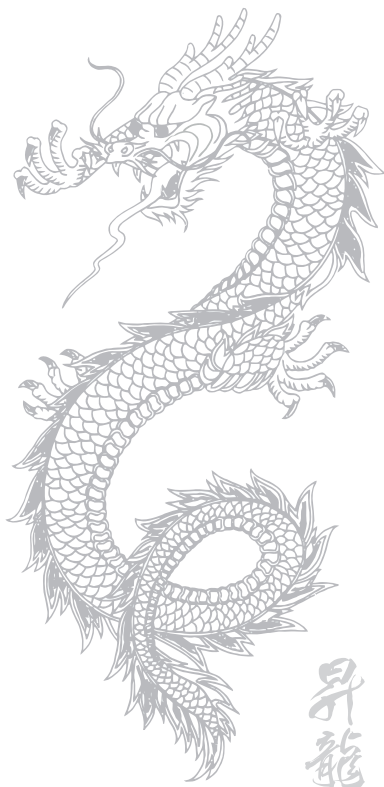
Ryo recently released his new acoustic guitar solo album 'E' as his third solo guitar project for One Voice/Videoarts Music in Japan. The release date of this album was April 24, 2002 and he also appeared at Montreal Jazz Festival in Canada in July 2002 to promote this solo album.

Ryo's other recent projects includes being a composer, music director as well as guitarist for the jazz ballet "Still Point" for Estonian National Opera House. This ballet is choreographed by Russell Adamson, a native Jamaican who resides in Helsinki. The first three premiere shows of "Still Point" were performed on Dec 30-31, 2000 as special New Year's Eve events and very well received as one of the cutting edge modern ballet incorporating moves from classical, jazz, hip-hop to Latin. This show will be continually performed as a part of their regular programs through out the year 2002.

Ryo also recently released live studio trio album "Reval" recorded in Tallin Estonia. Featuring Estonia's leading musicians Toivo Unt on Bass, Aivar Vassiljev on Drums and Kristi Keel on English Horn. One of the most intimate acoustic settings to date among his releases. The same group is currently recording the follow up album to Reval in Tallinn during late spring 2002.

In 1999, while Ryo was releasing his latest CD "Cosmic Rhythm", two noteworthy Hip-Hop Super Stars Puff Daddy and Keith Murray have recorded Ryo's original composition "Bamboo Child" on their latest albums twenty three years later from it's original recording, proving that even Ryo's old recording would perfectly match with current Hip-Hop beats and moods.

Ryo primarily plays two guitars -- a custom-made, hollow-body, Yamaha electric (similar to a Gibson) with a mother-of-pearl dragon inlay on the neck (it's shown on some of his album covers); and a Spanish-made, nylon-string, acoustic flamenco guitar (seen on the inside jacket). His electric playing has been influenced by a wide variety of musicians from Wes Montgomery, Kenny Burrell and George Benson to Carlos Santana, B.B. King and Jeff Beck. Acoustic inspirations include Andres Segovia, Django Reinhardt, John Williams and Paco de Lucia.



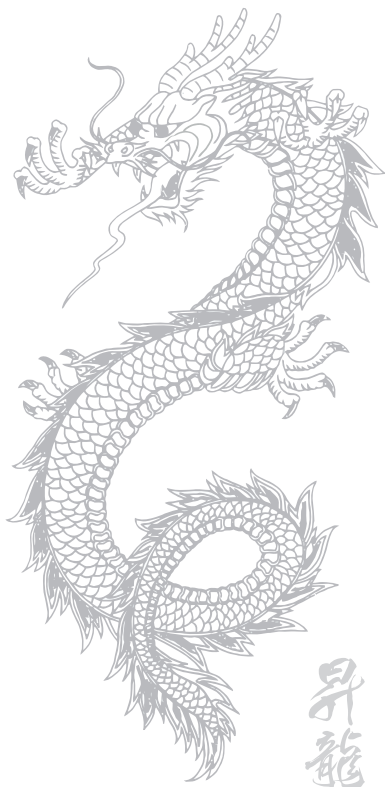




Just as mesmerizing as Ryo's guitar playing is his use of innovative rhythm patterns on many of his projects. Those rhythms range from straight-ahead jazz to pop-rock to Latin to hip-hop urban sounds. "When I was a child, my parents listened to a lot of Cuban dance music and those are the first rhythms that captivated me. Rock music took off in the Sixties with the big beat. Then I played with great jazz drummers like Chico and Elvin Jones in the Seventies and they taught me a great deal about rhythm. Elvin conducted the dynamics of the music in his band and told the story of life through his drums. All of these influences helped me when I started programming my own rhythms for dance and jazz recordings over the past 15 years."

Most of Kawasaki's recordings are combinations of meticulously-crafted rhythms, backing tracks containing a wide variety of melodic sounds, occasional voices, and emotional improvisational guitar readings. "In truth, everything is improvisational. It doesn't matter whether you are playing a guitar or a new instrument like a computer. Anytime you make music you are playing with your knowledge, your libraries of information and your skill. There is a technology revolution going on. Some people rise with it while others are conservative and resistant and are left in the past. I say accept the change and you will have a more positive perspective about life."

**Randall Davis**



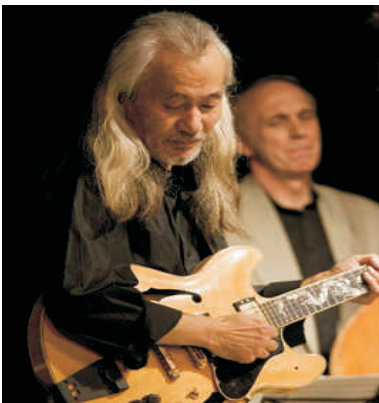
# DISCOGRAPHY

## Albums as band leader

- ? • Easy Listening Jazz Guitar (1970)
- ? • Gut's the Guitar (1972)
- ? • Prism (1975)
- ? • Eight Mile Road (1976)
- ? • Juice (1976)
- ? • Ring Toss (1977)
- ? • Nature's Revenge (1978)
- ? • Mirror of My Mind (1979)
- ? • Little Tree (1980)
- ? • Live (1980)
- ? • Sapporo (1980)
- ? • Ryo (1982)
- ? • Lucky Lady (1983)
- ? • Images (1987)
- ? • Here, There and Everywhere (1992)
- ? • My Reverie (1993)
- ? • Love Within the Universe (1994)
- ? • Remixes, remixes Vol.1. (1995)
- ? • Sweet Life (1996)
- ? • Cosmic Rhythm (1999)
- ? • Reval (2001)
- ? • E (2002)
- ? • Agana (2007)

## 12 inch dance singles

- ? • Electric World (1987)
- ? • One Kiss (1988)
- ? • No Expectations (1988)
- ? • Say Baby I Love You (1988)
- ? • Wildest Dreams (1989)
- ? • Life Is the Rhythm (1989)
- ? • Pleasure Garden (1990)



## Recordings with others

- ? • Head-Rock / Jiro Inagaki & Soul Media (1970)
- ? • Sound of Sound Limited / Takeshi Inomata (1970)
- ? • Something / Jiro Inagaki & Soul Media
- ? • Feat. Steve Marcus (1971)
- ? • Rock Guitar Battle '71 / Various artists (1971)
- ? • Guitar Workshop / Various artists (1971)
- ? • Chigaihoken / Ushio Sakai (1973)
- ? • Plays Jimi Hendrix / Gil Evans (1975)
- ? • Mobius / Cedar Walton (1975)
- ? • There Comes a Time / Gil Evans (1976)
- ? • Tarika Blue vol.1 / Tarika Blue (1976)
- ? • What Would It Be Without You / Joe Lee Wilson (1976)
- ? • Tokyo Concert / Gil Evans (1976)
- ? • Tarika Blue vol.2 / Tarika Blue (1977)
- ? • Main Force / Elvin Jones (1977)
- ? • Time Capsule / (1977)
- ? • Aft / JoAnne Brackeen (1978)
- ? • 'Round About Midnight / Ted Curson (1978)
- ? • Trinkets and Things / JoAnne Brackeen (1979)
- ? • Pleasure / Shigeharu Mukai (1979)
- ? • All-In All-Out / Masahiko Sato (1979)
- ? • I Heard Mingus / Ted Curson (1980)
- ? • Manhattan Skyline / Hiroki Miyano (1980)
- ? • Impressions of Charles Mingus / Teo Macero (1983)
- ? • Crystallization (1986)
- ? • Christmas Songs / Carolling Carollers (1988)
- ? • New York String Quartet vol.1 / New York String Quartet (1988)
- ? • New York String Quartet vol. 2 / New York String Quartet (1989)
- ? • Wave / Camila Benson (1995)
- ? • Classic Jazz Funk, Vol. 6: The Definitive Jap-Jazz Mastercuts /
- ? • Various artists (1995)
- ? • Dusty Fingers Volume 1 / Various artists (1995)
- ? • Memories / Camila Benson (1996)
- ? • Trinkets and Things / Cosmic Village (1997)
- ? • Desafinado / Camila Benson (1997) I Will / John Clark (1997)
- ? • RCA Victor 80th Anniversary, Vol. 6: 1970-1979/Various artists (1997)
- ? • Battle of the Bands: Evans Vs. Mingus / Various artists (1998)
- ? • Super Guitarists / Various artists (1999)
- ? • Jazz Spectrum: Real Jazz for Real People, Vol. 2/Various artists (1999)
- ? • Three Flutes Up / Chip Shelton (1999)
- ? • More What Flutes 4 / Chip Shelton (2001)
- ? • Different Dreams 2 / Various artists – Estonian Jazz (2001)
- ? • Impressions of Miles Davis / Teo Macero (2001)

## NEW HORIZON

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