



Two for the Show Media

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For Immediate Release:

Pianist/ Composer Kayo to release *Manhattan Sunset* on Edwards Records

Kayo– Piano/**Patrick O’Leary**– bass/ **Eric Halvorson** - drums

Giuseppe Milici – harmonica/ **Russell Malone** – guitar/ **Nick Hempton** – alto saxophone

Manhattan Sunset, the sixth studio album from pianist **Kayo Hiraki**, highlights a seasoned player drawing upon her various influences and varied interests within jazz. From the opener, 59th Street Station B Line, an angular her composition reminiscent of Monk’s medium-tempo bop, to Midday Sun Shower, with its funky & sweet, contemporary jazz stylings, the album ferries listeners through a pleasantly diverse array of genres within the jazz idiom. Tarte Aux Fraises and Runaway Thought (sound track from the film ‘Birth Day’), both jazz waltzes, feature strong trio work, as bassist **Patrick O’Leary** and drummer **Eric Halvorson** lend stimulating support to Kayo’s piano solos as they build steam. The latter song also highlights saxophonist **Nick Hempton**, who plays elegantly throughout the record. *Manhattan Sunset* features additional guests’ appearances from world-renowned guitarist **Russell Malone**, lending his striking talents to the hypnotic Komorebi (Sun-beams streaming through the leaves of trees), and Italian harmonica player **Giuseppe Milici**, who deftly handles the melancholy ballad, June in Paris and image of sidewalk cafe in Paris, Cafe Gitane. The album is mostly comprised of originals, but two standards (Saga of Harrison Crabfeathers and My Melancholy Baby) along with a traditional Japanese folk song, Kojyo no Tsuki, are standouts as well.

About Kayo:

Steinway Piano Artist, Grammy Awards voting member, Kayo Hiraki was born in Japan, the daughter of a classical pianist. A child prodigy, she started playing the piano when she was three years old and the violin a year later. At the age of 18, Kayo enrolled in Kunitachi Music College, Japan’s leading music conservatory. After receiving her degree, she embarked on a career as a composer, arranger and working musician, playing classical and jazz piano, organ and synthesizers.

In 1988, while captivating the New York jazz scene, Kayo began studying with world-renowned pianist Barry Harris, and later studied with the great Larry Ham.

In 1998, Kayo released her first album with her piano trio. The album, which included many of her own songs, including “I Miss You,” was widely praised by critics in Japan for its gentle approach to the American jazz idiom.

The legendary jazz bassist Ron Carter has said about Kayo, “Rarely have I heard a musician as gifted as Ms. Hiraki. To hear her play is to experience the joy of her creative ability and the depth of her experience as a talented performer.”

Kayo has released five albums since 2003, which feature her piano and vocal talents. Her fifth CD was released in 2007 by the Japanese label AGAM Records. Currently, Kayo performs five nights a week at Arturo’s in Greenwich Village, New York City and also continues to tour Japan and Europe every year.

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Kayo is currently available for interview

For more information visit: www.kyojazzpiano.com