

# Another Story

Shinya Fukumori

***A drummer and a composer, Shinya Fukumori, after having had released his debut album from ECM back in 2018, is now launching his own music label “nagalu.”***

***For its first new release, Shinya has gathered some of Japan’s top artists to create a soundscape he has long been envisaging far beyond that of ECM, jazz music that is born from and truly unique to Asian culture.***

***Nostalgic yet visionary, “Another Story” evokes a feeling of yearning and tenderness through fifteen of its musical poetics, each speaking ever so softly, inviting listeners on a journey of a new beginning.***

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Both internationally and domestically recognized as Japan’s ingenious musical talent, **Shinya Fukumori** is now fulfilling his long-awaited ambition of starting his own music label, “nagalu” with its first full album **“Another Story”**.

After spending a decade in the United States since he left his home in Osaka at the age of seventeen, Fukumori decides to reset his eyes on Europe and change his base to Munich, Germany in 2013.

In the winter of 2018, following the legacy of Masabumi Kikuchi, known as the first Japanese jazz musician to ever release an album as a leader from ECM Records, Fukumori, too, awes the world with his debut album “For 2 Akis” from the label. Comprised of his and his members’ original compositions as well as songs such as “Hoshi Meguro No Uta” written by a beloved novelist and a poet, Kenji Miyazawa, “Kojo no Tsuki” by Rentaro Taki, and Japanese classic masterpieces, “Ai San San” and “Mangetsu No Yube”, the album portrays the seamless harmony of Europe’s improvisational psyche and Japan’s lyrical resonance, thus beautifully revealing Fukumori’s unique identity as an internationally acclaimed artist.

Three years have passed since then, and Fukumori proves that his pursuit has only begun.

Not merely a drummer, Fukumori is also a gifted composer and an arranger, highly regarded for his translucent timbre and elegant artistry. For the first album off of his new label, Fukumori unsparingly shows such aesthetics through all of his original compositions which are enclosed in two discs, named “Tsuki” (moon) and “Hana” (flower) respectively. Each song, with individually altered instrumentations, comes together to form one cinematic story, flowing from one enriching sound to another, from a stream of bewitching vocals on an improvisation piece to a thrilling ensemble featuring a traditional Japanese bamboo flute called shakuhachi. “Kanashikute Yarikirenai,” the only composition that is not original to Fukumori, is a classic folk song by the Folk Crusaders, to which Fukumori remembers listening throughout his childhood.

“Walk” is another song that represents a particular sound he has been envisioning since he was eighteen, an empathic integration of Westernized jazz and poetic sceneries unique to his native country, Japan.

Fukumori’s refined sense of style that beautifully balances composition sophistication and artistic improvisation, is deeply explored and executed in the fifteen songs recorded for this album, setting a new refreshing tone in the modern Japanese music scene. His firm belief that there is “something we, with an Asian background, can only express” led to the birth of “**Another Story**”, recorded at Sekiguchidai Studio in Tokyo in August 2020. Fellow artists who share the same confidence showed up at the studio, including two pianists, **Masaki Hayashi** and **Koichi Sato**, guitarist **Kazuma Fujimoto** from orange pekoe, shakuhachi player **Akihito Obama**, singer and songwriter **Takuji Aoyagi** from Little Creatures, vocalist **Salyu**, alto saxophonist **Kanon Aonami**, bandoneon player **Satoshi Kitamura**, and three bassists **Toru Nishijima**, **Kazuhiro Tanabe**, and **Masaki Kai**, all of whom are intensively talented, and turned out to be absolutely imperative to realize Fukumori’s dream sound.

Even after making a grand debut from one of the most prominent jazz labels in the world, Fukumori never ceases to create. As the new label sets in motion for more projects to come, Fukumori visualizes himself working as a producer as well, building a bridge between where his identity lies and where his music’s universality flourishes.

“**Another Story**” is officially released in Mono, offering a glimpse into the soundscape Fukumori, who was naturally born with one-sided hearing, is familiar with. The sound is unsullied and powerful, leading listeners on a journey to a new beginning.



## **Another Story - Shinya Fukumori**

### **Disc 1 - Tsuki**

1. Tsuki Wa Tou Ni Shizumi Yuki
2. L.A.S.
3. Atarayo (Improvisation)
4. Kanashikute Yarikirenai
5. Fallen
6. Another Story
7. Utsukushiki Tamashii -Tsuki-

### **Disc 2 - Hana**

1. Birth
2. Flight of a Black Kite
3. Mihikari (Improvisation)
4. Utsukushiki Tamashii -Hana-
5. Lily
6. Farewell
7. Walk
8. Hana Wa Hikari Ni Michibikare

**Shinya Fukumori** - drums / CD1 (M1-M6) CD2 (M1-M7)

**Masaki Hayashi** - piano / CD1 (M1,2,7) CD2 (M2,4,5,7)

**Koichi Sato** - piano / CD1 (M4 -M6) CD2 (M1,6,8)

**Kazuma Fujimoto** - electric & acoustic guitar / CD1 (M1,2,7) CD2 (M2,4,5)

**Salyu** - vocals / CD1 (M3,7) CD2 (M3,4)

**Satoshi Kitamura** - bandoneon / CD1 (M1) CD2 (M5,7)

**Kazuhiro Tanabe** - bass / CD1 (M1) CD2 (M5)

**Toru Nishijima** - bass / CD1 (M2) CD2 (M2)

**Takuji Aoyagi** - vocals, acoustic guitar / CD1 (M4) CD2 (M7)

**Akihito Obama** - shakuhachi / CD1 (M4,6)

**Kanon Aonami** - alto saxophone / CD1 (M6) CD2 (M6)

**Masaki Kai** - bass / CD2 (M7)

All songs composed by Shinya Fukumori except CD1(M3) CD2(M3) by Shinya Fukumori & Salyu, CD1(M4) by Kazuhiko Kato

CD1(M4) words by Hachiro Sato CD2(M7) words by NILO

※MONO

Produced by Shinya Fukumori