

MASA SUMIDÉ

Japan's Premier Solo Guitarist

“One of the world’s greatest solo guitarists.” - Tuck Andress (Tuck & Patty)

Masa Sumide made an impressive debut in 1975 as a member of a three piece band called SIGNAL with the first single sold more than 800,000 copies in Japan. Until the disbandment of the group in 1983 they continued to delight the fans with 14 singles and 7 albums, which were all published by major labels.

Masa changed his style to solo guitar after relocating to Australia in late 1996. From then on he literally put his body and soul into honing his skill, trying to come up with a style of his own. The end result is the unique one-man-band approach that is groovy, percussive, inventive and dazzling as well. Tuck Andress of Tuck & Patti spoke of Masa’s playing in the highest terms after listening to his music.

With an abundant supply of creative energy Masa has continued to release one album a year ever since he put out his first solo guitar album “*Treadin’ Easy*” in 1999. The latest CD “*Happy Together*” is his 9th. There are also two albums (*The Collection / Ain’t Life Grand*) available in the USA through Solid Air Records.

Masa Sumide is now based in Japan and is trying to spread the good word around on fingerstyle guitar music.....

On musical influences...

“When I was in Grade Six, The Ventures (Nokie Edwards!) were all the rage and I got hooked on their music the minute after hearing them for the first time. They were the spark that ignited my passion for music. After that I went into hard rock (Deep purple, Led Zeppelin, Grand Funk Railroad etc). After that comes countless guitar players who have influenced me in so many ways, but a couple of names deserve to be mentioned

here. I've learned a lot listening to JOE PASS solo albums and have the utmost respect for him. Every time I sit down with my guitar and try to copy his songs (to learn his moves and so on), I feel like a mosquito attacking an elephant! He was truly a giant. I forever regret never having seen him play live. When I first listened to TUCK ANDRESS' solo album "Reckless Precision", I was stunned into silence by his funky and percussive yet warm touch. I simply can't get over the way he plays! To find out how he goes about his business, I got his tuition video "Fingerstyle Mastery" (Hotlicks) which helped me with various techniques I wasn't too sure about. He's a very innovative player as well as a great teacher."

Quotes on the CD "YOU ARE GOLD"

Tommy Emmanuel:

"Thank you, Masa, for such a creative and inventive CD album."

Don Ross:

"50/50" is the funkiest guitar tune I've heard in years...maybe ever!! Excellent work, Masa. Your recording reaffirms my belief that the guitar is capable of more than "guitar music."

Alex de Grassi:

"Masa grooves !"

Peter Finger:

"Great guitarist, musician, arranger. He surprises me all the time."

Stephen Bennett:

"Two words --- VERY FUNKY!!!"

Laurence Juber:

"Masa has mastered all the gestures of contemporary fingerstyle guitar. Fasten your seatbelt as he slaps and taps you through this popping set of original jazz and blues tunes."

Artie Traum:

"Masa Sumide is an adventurous guitarist with chops, funky rhythms and strong melodies. He stands out among the current crop of "tappers and slappers" because his musical instincts are solid. A fine CD for any guitar-lover's collection."

Discography

CD

- ◆ **BORN TO GROOVE** (*working title, 2008 / Skinny Dog Music)
- ◆ **HAPPY TOGETHER** (2007 / Skinny Dog Music)
- ◆ **YOU ARE GOLD** (2006 / Skinny Dog Music)
- ◆ **HOUSE OF HITS** (2005 / Skinny Dog Music)
- ◆ **GROOVE FILES** (2004 / Skinny Dog Music)
- ◆ **STARLIGHT KISS** (2004 / Iruka Music)
- ◆ **PLAY ME LIKE A GUITAR** (2003 / Skinny Dog Music)
- ◆ **DAYBREAK** [various artists] (2003 / Roots Music)
- ◆ **AIN'T LIFE GRAND** (2002 / Sold Air Records)
- ◆ **THE COLLECTION** (2002 / Sold Air Records)
- ◆ **SHADOW DANCER** (2001)
- ◆ **COOL EXPOSURE** (2000)
- ◆ **TREADIN' EASY** (1999)

DVD

- ◆ **SOLO GUITAR MAGIC** (2005 / Vision Quest Publishing Inc., International)

BOOK (Tab)

- ◆ **PLAY ME LIKE A GUITAR** (Wind Strings Publication)
- ◆ **GROOVE FILES** (Wind Strings Publication)