

## Ai, KUWABARA

Ai Kuwabara (b.1991, Chiba) is a Japanese jazz pianist and composer.

Graduated from the Music Department at Senzoku Gakuen High School as a jazz piano major in 2010. Studied piano under Yuki Arimasa, Yoko Yamashita, and Kazune Zaima.

Have performed in many concerts since her early years, and won many awards including gold medals at the All-Japan Yamaha Electone Concours. Switched to playing the piano from junior high.

<http://www.aikuwabaratrio.com/>

---

## Performance History

### 2014

- Aug 23 The 46th Summer Jazz at Tokyo Metropolitan Hibiya Public Hall, TOKYO
- Oct 15 at NAGOYA Blue Note, AICHI
- Oct 20 at Blue Note Tokyo, TOKYO
- Dec 21 Playing Bösendorfer Vol.16 ~GALA! 10th ANNIVERSARY~  
at Kanazawa 21st Century Museum Of Contemporary Art, ISHIKAWA

### 2013

- Jul 23 SAPPORO CITY JAZZ EZO GROOVE 2013 MUSIC TENT LIVE  
at Sapporo Odori Park, HOKKAIDO
- Sep 8 12th TOKYO JAZZ FESTIVAL at Tokyo International Forum, Hall A, TOKYO
- Oct 30 SAPPORO CITY JAZZ in TOKYO 2013 WHITEROCK MUSIC TENT LIVE  
at Tokyo Designers Week, TOKYO

※The first overseas public tour in the West coast of the U.S.  
sponsored by the Japan Foundation, Los Angeles

<http://www.jflalc.org/ai-kuwabara-trio-project-US-Tour.html>

- Nov 14 at Chevron Auditorium, International House, University of California Berkeley,  
Berkeley, CA
- Nov 16 at The Los Angeles Theatre Center, Los Angeles, CA
- Nov 18 at Kenneth King Academic & Performing Arts Center Auraria Campus, Denver, CO
- Nov 20 at Fine Arts Building, University of Alaska Anchorage, Anchorage, AK
- Dec 22 Playing Bösendorfer Vol.15 ~Brightest of the Starry Night~  
at Kanazawa 21st Century Museum Of Contemporary Art, ISHIKAWA

### 2012

- Dec 22 Playing Bösendorfer Vol.14 ~Christmas Fantasy~  
at Kanazawa 21st Century Museum Of Contemporary Art, ISHIKAWA

### 2011

- May to Aug The Young Americans Dinner-Theater Europe at Bad Karlshafen, KASSEL, Germany

## Discography



1st Album  
**from here to there**

(ewe records)  
EWCD-0191

Nov 7 / 2012



2nd Album  
**THE SIXTH SENSE**

(ewe records)  
EWCD-0193

Apr 10 / 2013



3rd Album  
**the Window**

(ewe records)  
EWCD-0195

Apr 23 / 2014



4th Album  
**Love Theme**

(ewe records)  
EWER-1004

Apr 1 / 2015

---

## Awards

### 2014

- First Prize at Montreux Jazz Solo Piano Competition in KAWASAKI, Japan

### 2013

- 2nd Album *THE SIXTH SENSE* was selected by The Japan Times as the best album of the first half of 2013 (jazz category)
- 2nd Album *THE SIXTH SENSE* was awarded NEW STAR Prize of NISSAN PRESENTS JAZZ JAPAN AWARD 2013, Album Of The Year
- Brightest Hope Prize of The 26th Music Pen Club Award (popular music category)

<http://www.musicpenclub.com/prize26.html>

## Press

### - an article about 3rd Album "*the Window*" from *Tokyo Jazz Notes*

"... *The Window* is a bold and confident album from a musician who has already made a big impression on the Japanese jazz scene. Highly recommended."

[in English](#)

### - an article about 2nd Album "*THE SIXTH SENSE*" from *Tokyo Jazz Notes*

"... Ai Kuwabara has exceeded that with a very strong set of original tunes that marks her out as one of the brightest new talents on the Japanese jazz scene. Undoubtedly one of the albums of the year."

[in English](#)

### - an article about 1st Album "*from here to there*" from *Tokyo Jazz Notes*

"... The album kicks off in fine fashion with *Bet Up*, a stylish hard-hitting number that really grabs the listener's attention. This leads into  $3 = \text{Log}_2(8)$ , which despite the title which looks like complex maths formula actually a very uplifting melody. ..."

[in English](#)

### - an article about "12th TOKYO JAZZ FESTIVAL" from *The Japan Times*

"... Once seated at the piano, however, it was business as usual and as the set progressed it was clear that both she and the other members of the band were really enjoying themselves, the dramatic tunes perfectly suited to the large concert hall setting. ..."

<http://www.japantimes.co.jp/culture/2013/09/11/music/tony-bennett-new-cool-collective-ai-kuwabara-trio-project-impress-crowds-at-tokyo-jazz-festival/#.VO4BjkJRj-k>

### - an interview about "12th TOKYO JAZZ FESTIVAL" from *The Japan Times*

"... But I could never get the International Forum out of my head and decided that I just had to play there one day, and I've been building toward that ever since. ..."

[http://www.japantimes.co.jp/culture/2013/09/04/music/pianist-ai-kuwabara-to-live-out-her-dream-on-stage-at-tokyo-jazz-festival/?utm\\_source=dlvr.it&utm\\_medium=twitter#.VO3PV0JRj-n](http://www.japantimes.co.jp/culture/2013/09/04/music/pianist-ai-kuwabara-to-live-out-her-dream-on-stage-at-tokyo-jazz-festival/?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter#.VO3PV0JRj-n)