



Ruby PAN live in Kaohsiung ft. Kaori KOBAYASHI

Knot A Problem

2026.9.20 Sun. 14:30

Weiwuying Recital Hall

Duration is 70 minutes without intermission.
Suitable for age 7+.



National Kaohsiung
CENTER FOR THE ARTS

WEI WUYING

衛武營 國家藝術文化中心
國家表演藝術中心 National Performing Arts Center

Synopsis

I hope that everyone who walks into the Recital hall will find something of their own to resonate with in this performance. Life can be filled with uncertainty, confusion, and moments of frustration, but I believe music has a gentle way of staying with us through them. I hope you leave with a little more courage in your heart, and perhaps one more thing to say to yourself: "It's okay."

— Ruby PAN

Centering on Ruby PAN's second fusion jazz album, *Knot A Problem*, this performance brings studio recordings to life through expanded improvisation and emotional depth. It explores the delicate inner journey of the modern woman, embodying the album's core spirit: honestly confronting oneself and escaping the "I'm fine" facade demanded by societal expectations.

The saxophone acts as a narrator, weaving a story of urban love, friendship, and self-reconciliation amidst a modern city atmosphere. Featuring renowned Japanese saxophonist Kaori KOBAYASHI, this collaboration fosters international exchange and showcases the vibrant chemistry of Asian jazz. Through spontaneous musical dialogues, each performance offers a unique journey from solitude to rebirth.

Program

Anthropophobia

Unlimited love

Searching

Childhood

Cynic

Symbiont

Star Soda

Missing Rain

Intersect

On the Bridge

Make Up

Free

Mimosa

Performers

Saxophone | Ruby PAN



Ruby PAN graduated from the Graduate Institute of Music at National Dong Hwa University, majoring in jazz performance. She specializes in Pop, Soul, Funk, R&B, and Jazz styles. As a composer and saxophonist, she released her self-titled debut jazz fusion album in 2018, which was immediately nominated for Best Recording Album at the 30th Golden Melody Awards in the instrumental category. In November 2023, she released her second original album, *Knot A Problem*, which once again earned her a nomination for Best Album Producer at the 35th Golden Melody Awards in the instrumental category.

Independently produced and released, the album brought together several outstanding Taiwanese musicians. Showcasing her mastery of jazz fusion, it incorporates a wide range of electronic elements, sound design, and synthesized textures, fully reflecting her rich production experience and exceptional performance skills. The arrangements highlight Ruby PAN's distinctive saxophone voice and her bold creative vision.

In October 2024, she held her solo concert *Knot A Problem: Ruby PAN 2024 Live In Taipei* at Clapper Studio which was critically acclaimed. In recent years, she has frequently performed on the main stages of major jazz festivals across Taiwan.

Saxophone | Kaori KOBAYASHI



Saxophonist & Flutist / Composer / Arranger / Producer

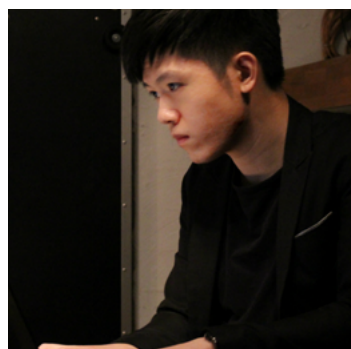
Born in 1981 in Kanagawa and raised in Tokyo, KOBAYASHI began playing the flute in her first year of junior high and transitioned to the alto saxophone in her second year of high school. In 2000, she enrolled in the Jazz Course at Sensoku Gakuen College of Music, studying under Bob ZUNG.

In 2005, she made her major debut with the album *Solar* under Victor Entertainment. To date, she has released 15 albums, including best-of compilations. Her works have been released across Asia—including Taiwan, South Korea, China, and Thailand—where she

frequently performs at live venues and jazz festivals. Her acclaim in Taiwan is particularly notable, having secured the #1 spot on the jazz charts with three consecutive albums. In 2012, she was honored with "The Most Beautiful Saxophonist in Asia" award in Thailand and has performed at the Java Jazz Festival in Indonesia, one of the largest jazz festivals in Asia.

Since joining King Records in 2018, she has continued to release new works consistently. In addition to her career as a solo artist, she has collaborated with numerous domestic and international musicians and has provided live support and recording sessions for legendary Japanese artists such as Shigeru IZUMIYA and Yumi MATSUTOYA. She also serves as a lecturer at Senzoku Gakuen College of Music, dedicated to nurturing the next generation of musicians. In 2024, she released her 15th album, *INTERSECTION*.

Keyboard | YEH Cheng-ting



By simply listening, yeh has managed to self-teach piano for over ten years. As a young middle schooler, he used incredible patience to imitate every single note and phrase on jazz albums before interpreting the music through his own inspirations. Starting with an infatuation with swing, his playing and improvisations are built upon and exhibit a very strong influence from the traditional jazz sound.

Drums | Chuck PAYNE



Chuck PAYNE is a professional drummer, originally from Houston, Texas, currently living in Taipei, Taiwan. Chuck attended the University of North Texas as a Jazz Studies major as well as studying music and audio engineering at Houston Community College. After moving to Taiwan in 2012, Chuck began playing concerts, touring and recording drums tracks for several notable players in the Asian music scene, including pop stars Joanna WANG, Jolin TSAI, David TAO, Kay HUANG, Hebe, Kit CHAN and music producers Hsing-min "Baby" CHUNG. In addition, Chuck is an endorsing artist for Gioco Drums.

Guitar | HSIAO Yu-jung



Currently the guitarist for the band oo-Lâu, Yu-jung HSIAO is an acclaimed musician who won the Grand Prize and Best Live Performance at the 2021 Taiwan Original Music Award. He also received the Ho-Hai-Yan Indie Music Award at the 2023 Hohaiyan Rock Festival and performed on the album *oo-Lâu*.

His musical style draws from a love of folk, jazz, Brazilian music, R&B, and experimental improvisation. A versatile collaborator across diverse genres, HSIAO has contributed to recordings and live performances for artists such as LO YenTing, 9m88, Mandark, CHEN I-heng, Szuchi, Lilium, and Ruby PAN.

Bass | Toshi FUJII



Graduated from Berklee College of Music, Toshi FUJII specializes in modern music theory, composition, and arrangement. He formed the "T-Funk Big Band" and "Afternoon Tree," blending jazz, classical, and folk with the harmonica, and contributed to the soundtracks of the films *Cape No. 7* and *The Great Buddha+*. In 2017, he released his debut jazz harmonica album *Blue Bear*, which earned nominations for Best Jazz Album, Best Jazz Single, and Best Musician at the 9th

Golden Indie Music Awards (GIMA).

As a member of the crossover ensemble Sizhukong Jazz Band, he released four albums and won Best Pop Instrumental Album at the 2010 Golden Melody Awards and Best Live Performance at the 2011 GIMA. Recently, he expanded his career to Japan and toured with the LIN Sheng-xiang Band and 9m88. He served as a juror for the 13th GIMA and authored the instructional series *TOSHI Jazz Drum System Learning*.

Artistic and Production Team

Saxophone | Ruby PAN, Kaori KOBAYASHI

Keyboard | YEH Cheng-ting

Drums | Chuck PAYNE

Guitar | HSIAO Yu-jung

Bass | Toshi FUJII

Production Assistant | YANG YaoChun

Artist Representative | FeiFei HUANG

Makeup | Hungyi LU

Hair | Odye Hairmosa lab.

Sound Engineering | Just Music CO. LTD.

Production Team of Weiwuying

Program Coordinator | Vanessa CHEN

Production Coordinator | CHEN Peng-chen

Technical Coordinator | CHENG Po-hin

Stage Staff | CHENG Rong-chi

Lighting Designer & Staff | LIU Tzu-hung

Lighting Staff | CHEN Xia-Zhao

Audio & Video Staff | CHEN Yen-ju, LIU Tung-hsin

Marketing Coordinator | HUANG Chao-hsueh

With All the Staff of National Kaohsiung Center for the Arts (Weiwuying)

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Weiwuying Online Questionnaire

