

Shu Odamura Biography

Born in Kyoto, Japan, Shu Odamura started taking guitar lessons at the age of 12. In 2003, he entered the Gibson Jazz Guitar Contest in Tokyo and was the youngest participant to win the "Jury's Special prize." In 2006, Shu moved to Boston to study at Berklee College of Music where he was the recipient of the Toshiko Akiyoshi Award, and where he earned a Bachelor's of Music Degree in Jazz Composition.

As a guitarist, Shu performs and records with jazz ensembles, pop/rock bands, church choirs, and as leader of his own jazz groups. In 2010, he played on Mina Cho's album "Originality," which led him to be honored by "The 32nd Jazz Station Poll" as Top 3rd Acoustic Guitarist. This poll is conducted by renowned jazz journalist Arnaldo DeSouteiro.

As a composer, Shu composes scores for independent films, writes and arranges for jazz orchestras, flute/saxophone ensembles, pop singers and other ensembles. Shu recently composed the music for a feature length independent movie entitled "The Wishmakers". His minimal-music piece "Kitchen Talk" was selected to air on Ryuichi Sakamoto's radio program in Japan.

Shu is now based in New York where he regularly performs, composes and teaches. Shu was granted an Artist Visa from the US Department of Immigration and Naturalization Service which allows him to further develop as an artist here in the USA. He teaches guitar at Yamaha Music School of Bergen County.