



“Tao taps into a prism of rhythmically diverse jazz fusion”
 - Carol Banks Weber, Festival Peak (February 2019)

A jazz journey from ancestral Africa to NYC, steeped in deep grooves with shades of Funk, Pop, Reggae, Bulgarian, and Enka music, *Tao* is AfuriKo’s third full length album. Entirely self produced and funded on Kickstarter, it follows *On the Far Side* and *Style* (both selected by the French Society of Authors, Composers, and Music Publishers for full funding) and is the continuation of musical experiments centered around a playful blending of tones and rhythms, and a unique dialogue between the age-old stories of the djembe and the modern voice of digital pianos and synthesizers.

The duo, comprised of percussionist Akiko Horii and pianist/keyboardist Jim Funnell, was formed in Paris, France, in 2010 and relocated to Queens, NY, in 2017. They have toured extensively in the UK (London Jazz Festival, Cardiff University Concert Hall, Vortex Jazz Club), Japan (Kanazawa Jazz Street, Asahi Shimbun’s Asacom Hall), France (Sunset Sunside, Le Baiser Salé, Improphile), Germany (JazzLab), Holland (Theater Vrijburcht), Nepal (Kathmandu Jazz Festival, Jazz Upstairs), and the United States (ShapeShifter Lab, Rockwood Music Hall, Beats in Bliss Plaza).

What the press says...

“AfuriKo’s new music really flies in the face of jazz, opening up your ears to a world of possibilities. [...] The Queens, NY-based duo of Akiko Horii and Jim Funnell throws out all preconceptions in a truly enjoyable jazz-fusion album [...]. *Tao* features the African-infused jazz duo doing what they were born to do on nine completely and unapologetically individual and eccentric, yet musically pleasing instrumental tracks, focusing entirely on a higher plane.”

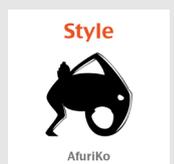
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“... the magic of their music slowly took over the venue. The duo [...] seemed to be in tune with each other while playing and it was evident in their music. Their synchronization, captivating dedication [...] and the whole repertoire as a result, hooked the audience to them.”

- HNS, The Himalayan Times (Oct. 2016)

“Music that breathes, pulsates, bifurcates, trifles. That is unclassifiable and played with exquisite delicacy, in the course of sly improvisations. Elaborate yet sincere and spontaneous all the while. AfuriKo is an absolutely atypical duo. [...] I urge you to discover them and slowly enter their world.”

- M. M., Afrique Asie (Nov. 2014)



Artists

Akiko Horii percussion

Jim Funnell piano/keyboards

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