

LOCAL STORIES

Meet Makoto Ishizaka | Bassist, Composer/Arranger

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We had the good fortune of connecting with Makoto Ishizaka and we've shared our conversation below.

Hi Makoto, what led you to pursuing a creative path professionally?

If I am not I, who will be? This is the Henry David Thoreau Quote. Let me get straight to the point, the reason why I am pursuing an artistic career is I realized I love music and I thought I would like to contribute to society through music. And also, I realized that inside of my heart wanted to do a non-replaceable job.

Looking back, music was a special thing to me since my childhood. I had listened to many genres due to my parents and brother's influence. Such as pop, rock, jazz, big band, classical, R&B, funk etc...These music made my soul tremble. And one day, I thought I also would like to perform and create such music. I started playing bass and took music theory class at the age of 13. However, I have chosen the path to live as an office worker besides pursuing to be a musician when I was 18. Because, I didn't have the courage to progress that way, and there was no specific goal living as a musician at that moment.

After working at my first job for 3 years as a power plant operator through the 2012 to 2015, I realized at 21 that I had to pursue my dream in the music industry and take that risk. I had reached a good salary and career but it wasn't who I wanted to become. There is a manual to maintain the power plant so I felt that the position of the first job was replaceable to anyone. It doesn't matter who you are. At least for me, the job didn't motivate my heart.

I had been considering my life at the time very carefully, like what moments make me feel happy and what things make my heart shaking. After deep consideration, I decided to take a risk of living as a freelance musician to pursue my own life. After I left the job, there was a big moment in my life. I have visited Monterey CA to see a 2015 Monterey Jazz Festival and I found a spark of my soul in the performance of Chick Corea Trio. At that moment, my goal is settled. The music in the festival was all authentic, and these arts certainly motivated people and it made their hearts warm on such a cold day.

After graduating from music education in Boston MA and Kobe Japan, I started my career as a bassist, composer/arranger in the field of jazz mainly. To be myself, and to not lose my heart, I will keep pursuing the path. And I will try to create art which makes people motivated.

