

# coba .. Revolutionist of Accordion.. and more!

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## **Accordionist, Composer**

coba has won several international accordion competitions including the 30<sup>th</sup> CMA world accordion competition at Vienna in 1980. He has released CDs in Europe and Japan, even reaching no.1 in the charts. coba has come to be more than a name - it means music which crosses thematic boundaries and which has a world-wide influence. After Björk saw coba perform in London in the late 90's, she immediately asked coba to join her world tour. They toured over 60 countries in 3 years and it had a stunning success. Since then, he has become one of the most renowned Japanese artists and he has spent 25 years regularly touring Europe. He has released 43albums of his music to date. coba has always strived for the best in his music and his success is proven by the excellent reviews it has received in Japan and worldwide. coba has dramatically transformed the traditional image of the accordion into a new form, compatible with the contemporary Pop music climate. This form has arguably come to be known as a genre in itself - 'coba'. coba is a prodigious composer who is currently working on sound tracks for films, traditional and modern Japanese theatre, TV and TV advertisements. His role is composer,

producer and performer, including working with orchestras. He is based in Tokyo-Paris and London and is continually working internationally.

## Biography

coba's musical education began at the age of three, When he was 18 he moved to Venice, Italy to study at the Accordion department of the Scuola di Musica Luciano Fancelli. He graduated at the top of the class.

- 1979 Wins first prize at the All Japan accordion competition
  - Wins first prize at the Alassio International accordion competition
- 1980 Wins first prize at the 30th C.M.A world accordion competition (also the first winning Asian artist)
- 1989 Starts touring Europe
- 1990 Concert tour in France, Spain and Italy
- 1991 Releases first solo album "under the moon in Sicily" by EMI
- 1992 First solo album "under the moon in Sicily" wins a special prize "Nihon record taisho" ('The Japanese record special prize as Grammy award')
- 1993 Concert tour performed in 5places in Japan
  - Concert tour performed in 11places in Japan
- 1995 Concert tour in France, Belgium, England and Italy
  - Concert tour performed in 4places in Japan
- 1995~1997 Joins Björk's world tour, attracting over 3million people in more than 60countries around the world.
- 1996 Solo album "ROOTS?" is selected as 'album of the year' by the France radio station Radio Nova.
- 1997 Awarded honorary citizenship of Mirano in Italy.
  - Concert tour performed in 13places in Japan
  - Acoustic concert tour in 9places in Japan
- 1998 Concert tour performed in 7places in Japan
- 1999 Concert tour performed in 9places in Japan
- 2000 Concert tour performed in 15places in Japan
- 2001 Receives the 24th Japan academy award for 'Outstanding Achievement in Music' for his music score for the film "Kao/Face" directed by Junji Sakamoto
  - Concert tour performed in 17places in Japan

- 2002 Starts a project "Bellows lovers", for the '200th anniversary of the Accordion' celebrations toward 2022  
 Concert tour performed in 10places in Japan  
 Concert tour in Italy
- 2003 Concert tour performed in 25places in Japan
- 2004 Concert tour in Spain  
 Concert tour performed in 5places in Japan
- 2005 Concert tour performed in 17places in Japan
- 2006 Awarded "Voce d'oro" in Italy for being the years top artist.  
 Concert tour in France, Belgium, Italy, England at 9cities  
 Concert tour performed in 27places in Japan
- 2007 World wide premiere of "Urbs in the chain forest for Accordion, Cajon and Orchestra"  
 Composed by coba and played with the Tokyo symphony orchestra.
- 2008 The competition piece for the final of the 7th Japan Clarinet Competition: "A Drop of Water Did Reveal for Clarinet Solo"  
 Composed for Pianist Izumi Tateno "ALBERO DI MEMORIA"  
 Concert tour performed in 11places in Japan  
 Live show in London
- 2009 The world's three greatest accordionists ~Dream casts~, world premier performance in Tokyo Water Music Festival (Germany/Berlin)  
 Starts a music festival project "Mabuioto" at Gangara cave in Okinawa.  
 Concert tour performed in 19places in Japan
- 2010 The world's three greatest accordionists ~Dream casts~, in Italy  
 Terem Crossover coba concert in Russia (St. Petersburg)  
 Concert "A tribute to Toru Takemitsu" in U.S.A. (NY Carnegie Hall & Orange County)
- 2011 Concert "Film music by Toru Takemitsu" in China (Beijing & Shanghai)  
 Concert tour performed in 7places in Japan
- 2012 "coba tour 2012 20th anniversary FESTA coba" performed in 29places in Japan  
 TREM Crossover & coba tour in Russia (St. Petersburg, Yakutsk, Tyumen)
- 2013 coba Europe tour (Austria, Italy)  
 Concert tour performed in 22places in Japan
- 2014 150years Anniversary of Diplomatic relations between Japan and Switzerland  
 Japan Week 2014, Japan Cultural Exchange Special Concert (Geneva, Bern)  
 coba quartet tour in Italy (Sicily, Bari, Matera)  
 Concert tour performed in 22places in Japan

- 2015 WAZEMMES L'ACCORDÉON (France/Lille)  
Concert tour performed in 21places in Japan  
Concert tour as TFC55(coba's trio) performed in 13places in Japan
- 2016 TFC55 World tour in Italy (Casterfidardo, Busseto) coba solo concert (Roma)  
Concert tour as TFC55 performed in 15places in Japan
- 2017 Awarded honorary citizenship of Castelfidardo in Italy  
coba quartet tour in Italy (Mirano, Roma, Casterfidardo)  
"coba tour 2017 25th anniversary" performed in 22places in Japan  
Concert tour as TFC55 performed in 22places in Japan
- 2018 Concert tour as TFC55 performed in 21places in Japan
- 2019 Concert tour as TFC55 performed in 20places in Japan  
coba quartet tour in Italy (Caserta, Matera, Porto San Giorgio, Casterfidardo, Montereale)
- 2020 Released 43 albums and 2DVD until today  
To be continued.....