

moumoon



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 avex trax

moumoon (mou in French which means “soft” and then word moon, thus meaning “soft moon”) is the name of the Japanese duo that has been attracting listeners all over the world. The group consists of lead vocalist **YUKA** and musician **Kousuke Masaki** who have successfully manage to attract many fans with their style of rock music with hit songs such as “Flowers”, “Do you remember?”, “Tiny Star” and “SWEET HEART”. J!-ENT shines our spotlight on the music duo, their discography plus photos from their live performances. **BY DENNIS A. AMITH**



IMAGE: moumoon's YUKA and Kousuke Masaki. Courtesy of Avex Entertainment, Inc.

In 2004, singer/songwriter YUKA and musician/composer Kousuke Masaki were introduced by a mutual friend.

Eventually, the two appreciated each other's music and in 2005, the two would form the rock unit, moumoon.

The group based their name from the French word "mou" and the English word "moon" which literally translates to "soft moon". Two words that would describe the two individuals of the group.

YUKA who was born on Dec. 3, 1985 in Tokyo is a big fan of Michelle Branch and Des'ree. Although, known for her vocals, YUKA is actually an accomplished violinist and played for an orchestra.

She learned English while living in America where she lived in Michigan and Illinois.

Kousuke Masaki was born on June 22nd, 1977 in the Ishikawa Prefecture and is a big fan of The Neptunes and Alanis Morissette.

Kousuke is an accomplished musician who grew up learning the piano and at the age of 13, learned to play guitar and at 15, started playing the synthesizer.

In July 2006, the duo released their first indie CD single "Flowers/Pride" through Gate Records which became a hit and releasing their first Indie album "Flowers" in Sept. 2006.

Eventually the popularity would attract the big label avex entertainment and signing the duo to their avex trax label and the mini-album

"love me?" would be released in Aug. 2007.

In the Spring and Fall of 2008, YUKA took part in several mini albums which include DJ MAKAI's first mini album "GARDEN" (March 2008) for the song "Can't You Feel", an compilation album titled "cappucino due" (April 2008) for the song "Be My Baby" (originally by Vanessa Paradis) and a guest vocalist on the mini-album "DOWN TOWN" (Sept. 2008) for DEDE MOUSE.

moumoon would release three major CD singles through avex trax with hit songs such as "Do you remember?" in Dec. 2007, "Tiny Star" in June 2008 and "More Than Love" in Oct. 2008.

The rock duo then became the opening act for DO AS INFINITY (who made their return debut) for a special free live concert on Sept. 2008 and Nov. 2009 but also several of their own concerts titled "FULL MOON LIVE" in October and a concert tour in Dec. to promote their first full-length album.

This album self-titled album "moumoon" on was released on Nov. 12, 2008 and would feature a total of 14 tracks which include their three major label CD singles plus their hard-to-find Indie tracks such as "PINKY RING" (from their mini-album "FLOWERS"), "Cinderella" (from the mini-album "love me"), "Sunrise" (from their TSUTAYA RECORDS Indie CD Single "Tiny Star") and "SWEET HEART ~acoustic ver.~" (from their Mini album "love

me?").

The CD+DVD version of the album also featured video clips of "SWEET HEART", "Do you remember?", "Tiny Star", "more than love" but also a documentary film of "Tiny Star - beside FULL MOON Part 2" and the "Music Clip Off Shoot Digest" featuring the behind-the-scenes making of these music videos.

In Feb. 2009, the group released their fourth CD single titled EVERGREEN which is used as an ending theme song for Japanese television network, TBS's "Megadigi" and "Akko ni Omakase!" and also their coupling song "AI-NOOTO" which is used as the ending theme for the anime "VIPER'S CREED".

The CD+DVD single release features the music video for "EVERGREEN" and a documentary of the band's concert tour in Tokyo and Osaka promoting their first album.

moumoon is definitely a band worth listening to. Sporting addictive and catchy vocals with hint of a Western rock influence and also YUKA's ability to create English versions of those songs, they do have an international appeal.

You can find out more about moumoon through their official website and blog at:

<http://www.moumoon.com>

<http://moumoon.syncl.jp/>

— DENNIS A. AMITH



moumoon







avex trax



Why Some People Think *Duke Ellington* Is a Member of the Royal Family.

KIDS DON'T GET ENOUGH ART THESE DAYS. So you can see why some of them might accidentally confuse a jazz legend named Duke with royalty named duke. But it's finally time to set the record straight.

Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington didn't rule over a small English estate. Instead he reigned supreme over jazz institutions like The Cotton Club. He riffed

powerfully on the piano, but it was the full orchestra that he considered his most compelling instrument. He introduced improvisation to his compositions — a process unheard of using a 15-piece orchestra. The result was a different approach to jazz that sparked a revolution and an evolution.



Royal dukes are squaresville. They have no rhythm. And they wear crowns.

His music spread across the world with songs like "Sophisticated Lady," "In a

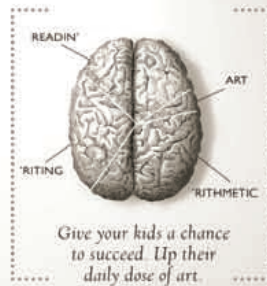


A piano player. A composer. An orchestra leader.
 Duke Ellington reigned over a land called Jazz.

Sentimental Mood," and "Take the 'A' Train." His historical concert in 1953 at the Newport Jazz Festival has entered the lexicon of legendary live performances. There is no doubt about it, Ellington's brand of jazz has contributed significantly to the American songbook and to the lives of anyone who has ever tapped their foot to a beat.

Jazz is art, you dig? Art can

really transform lives. In fact, the more art kids get, the smarter they become in subjects like math and science. And the more likely they'll become well-rounded, cool members of society. For Ten Simple Ways to get more art in kids' lives, visit AmericansForTheArts.org.



Art. Ask for More.

AMERICANSFORTHEARTS.ORG



古内 東子

Toko Furuuchi

THE WELL-KNOWN SINGER/SONGWRITER **TOKO FURUUCHI** HAS HAD HER SHARE OF HIT CD SINGLES AND ALBUMS AND AN ACCOMPLISHED MUSICAL CAREER IN JAPAN, BUT NOW SHE EMBARKS TO MAKE HER DREAM TO PERFORM IN THE UNITED STATES COME TRUE WITH HER FIRST PERFORMANCE IN NEW YORK CITY. **J!-ENT** INTERVIEWS TOKO IN REGARDS TO HER ILLUSTRIOUS CAREER AND HER PERFORMANCE IN NEW YORK CITY. **BY DENNIS A. AMITH**



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