



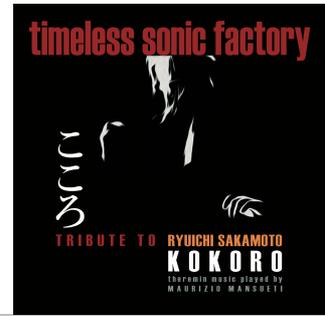
# TIMELESS SONIC FACTORY

presents

## KOKORO

Tribute to RYUICHI SAKAMOTO

Theremin music played by MAURIZIO MANSUETI



### TIMELESS SONIC FACTORY

CONCEPT

#### KOKORO – Tribute to RYUICHI SAKAMOTO

KOKORO is the third Maurizio "ErMan" Mansueti album as Timeless Sonic Factory, a project dedicated to contemporary Theremin music.

The entire album is a tribute to RYUICHI SAKAMOTO and his wonderful music.

**Why KOKORO?** In Japanese, KOKORO (こころ) means "heart" in its deepest significance. It is the spirit and essence of the individual. KOKORO was also a well known novel written by Natsume Sōseki (often considered the greatest writer in modern Japanese history). As in that novel, KOKORO means "the heart of things" or "feeling". In the same way, we can consider Ryuichi Sakamoto's music.

**About the album.** Recent versions of Ryuichi Sakamoto's music for solo piano can be certainly recognized as an influence.

ErMan has translated the soft touch of the melodies for piano by Sakamoto into melodies for Theremin, through "decomposition", "reconstruction" and "adaptation" while respecting the essence and intimacy of the original compositions.

ErMan draws suggestive musical paintings with his Theremin to explore exoticism in music with a contemporary approach.

KOKORO is a warm interpretation with few instruments, to creating magic with just a handful of delicately placed notes from the Theremin. The Theremin was recorded as a "live in studio" without any effects or treatment of the sound.

In some tracks, an additional Theremin voice was added to play bass lines or to represent a natural chorus. KOKORO is certainly the first Theremin album ever recorded and dedicated to the art of RYUICHI SAKAMOTO.

As ErMan says, "the Theremin represents the voice of the soul". KOKORO wants to be a dedication played with a mental intimacy, an amplification of the extraordinarily suggestive Sakamoto's compositions.

#### About the Theremin.

The Theremin is an early electronic musical instrument controlled by the player without touching it.

The Theremin is a very unique musical instrument. As in a sort Tai Chi dance, it is played by moving the hands in the air, around an invisible and, therefore, magic sound spectrum.

The Theremin takes its name from its Russian inventor, Professor Lev Sergeevic' Termen, who patented the device in 1928.

Today Moog Music manufactures performance-quality Theremins. The instrument found great success in many sci-fi and horror B-Movies especially during the early 1950's because of its tremolo and vibrato sound.

It is a "cult" electronic instrument and popular among avant-garde artists because the instrument itself has an esoteric stage presence.

Maurizio Mansueti [ErMan] is among the prime movers in Italy to reevaluate the Theremin since 1999.





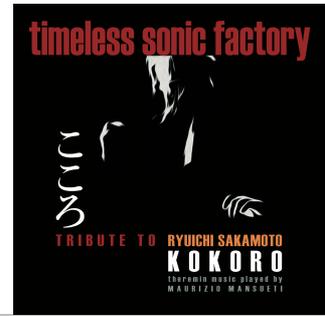
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### TRACKLIST & LISTENING GUIDE BY MAURIZIO MANSUETI

#### KOKORO – Tribute to RYUICHI SAKAMOTO

##### . The Sheltering Sky

by Ryuichi Sakamoto (The Sheltering Sky movie)

When I listened to this song after so many years, I noticed that the melody could be played with a touch of exotica if played on theremin, piano and vibraphone. I have no other words to add: Book, Movie and Soundtrack are so beautiful!

"Because we don't know when we will die, we get to think of life as an inexhaustible well. Yet everything happens only a certain number of times, and a very small number really.... How many more times will you watch the full moon rise? Perhaps twenty. And yet it all seems limitless." (Paul Bowles, The Sheltering Sky).

##### . A Flower is not a Flower

by Ryuichi Sakamoto

It was composed during Güt record label years. In 1998 "A Flower Is Not A Flower" was released live on CD for the first time (1998 - from Ryuichi Sakamoto – The Very Best Of Güt Years 1994-1997). Currently "A Flower is not a Flower" is one of the most beautiful live song played with piano solo by Sakamoto. Just a few notes but with a very deep touch.

##### . Bibo No Aozora

by Ryuichi Sakamoto, Masao Urino

The first version of this song was recorded in 1996 for the album Smoochy, and some years after, a new version for Babel OST. A very seductive version. Without that song Babel movie would not be the same. This version inspired me to record a theremin album dedicated to Ryuichi Sakamoto.

##### . Ride Ride Ride (Celliers' Brother's song)

by Stephen McCurdy

Ride Ride Ride was originally recorded for Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence OST.

I loved this very short song because it has a portamento with a gradually crescendo. A lovely melody to play with a theremin from low octaves to high octaves.

##### . Asience

by Ryuichi Sakamoto

A very rare song. In 2003 the wonderful chinese actress Zhang Ziyi became the face of the Japanese shampoo brand Asience. The original music was played by Sakamoto and published only in Japan. My personal interpretation of this song is a homage to the extraordinary beauty of Zhang Ziyi.

##### . Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence

by Ryuichi Sakamoto (Merry Christmas Mr. Lawrence OST).

I have the original single CD with Forbidden Colours and Bambo Houses / Bambo Music. So I was inspired by the solo piano version that currently Sakamoto plays with a very slow time (bpm) but trying to recreate the sound of that single with David Sylvian.

##### . Amore

by Ryuichi Sakamoto, Arto Lindsay, Roger Trilling

The original song was included in Beauty (1989 Sakamoto album) and later in "Playing the Piano". Both the versions are beautiful but I was inspired by the second one. Theremin gives a lyrical tone to this track, so I decided also to add a string ensemble to give a more dramatic and cinematic touch.

### TIMELESS SONIC FACTORY

### MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

#### KOKORO – Tribute to RYUICHI SAKAMOTO

Timeless Sonic Factory is born at the Transistors lab, the atelier of the ideas of ErMan and his memorable band The Transistors. Unusual musical instruments and toys are combined with technology, creating new music experiments.

##### Etherwave® Pro Theremin (Moog Music)

Professional Theremin of the Etherwave series by Moog Music. The invisible waves of this instrument bring the artist and the spectator together on a level of perception that seems impalpable but tangible.

##### Theremin - Voicematic 3 (Subscope)

made in Germany by Subscope. It is a new generation Theremin for collectors. Its sound remembers the voice of the Theremin played by Clara Rockmore.

##### Virtual instruments (laptop music)

The ideal type of music instruments for modern artists. Complete electronic instrumentation in a box that travels with the musician/producer. The perfect instrument for sound designers.