

## Hiromi announces new studio album and London Jazz Festival show

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Hiromi has announced *Sonicwonderland*, the internationally celebrated and GRAMMY-winning pianist and composer's new album to be released on October 6 (Telarc). *Sonicwonderland* represents a new musical adventure for the constantly evolving pianist and composer, who is a star in her native Japan, and burst onto the music scene 20 years ago with her debut album. Recorded with a new quartet, Hiromi's *Sonicwonder*, the album features 9 new works bursting with synthesizer and deep-in-the-pocket grooves. Hiromi dazzles at the keyboard, striking a balance of playing that is powerful, aggressive and delicate.

Hiromi's *Sonicwonder* is a quartet featuring blossoming young talents Hadrien Feraud (bass), Gene Coye (drums), and Adam O'Farrill (trumpet) and began performing live together earlier this spring. *Sonicwonderland* was recorded May 25-28 at Skywalker Sound Stage in Nicasio, California, where Hiromi also recorded her 2019 solo piano album *Spectrum*. In addition to new works written for this project, the album includes songs that were released on her "One Minute Portrait" YouTube initiative during the pandemic and rearranged for this band. UK singer/songwriter/keyboardist Oli Rockberger also contributes vocals to "Reminiscence" (lyrics co-written by Hiromi and Rockberger).

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The advertisement is a rectangular graphic with a bright orange background. At the top left is a small shield icon, and at the top right are icons for play and close. The main text reads "From idea to illustration with generative AI." in a bold, white, sans-serif font. Below this is a rounded rectangular button with the text "Update Illustrator" in white. To the right of the button is a small inset image of a man with a beard and a red beanie, smiling. Below the man's image are two small icons: one for "Design a brand kit" and one for "Generate". At the bottom of the graphic is the Adobe Illustrator logo in white.

"*Sonicwonderland*" is a preview of the album's many delights: it kicks off with a thumping sequenced synthesizer groove that's more dance club than jazz club. It's fast-paced, fun, and unfurls into an 8-minute adventure of open space and improvisation. While other songs feature quick tempos, funk grooves and synth work ("Trial and Error," "Go Go"), Hiromi works gracefully on acoustic piano extensively throughout, her elegant playing and composition work shines on pieces such as "Polaris" and "Utopia." The closing track, "Bonus Stage," is a lively, modern take on traditional jazz, with a short intro that could be mistaken for a video game soundtrack.

"The word 'wonder' has a lot of meaning. It fits the musical view that I have for this project...it is definitely a

new adventure for me," says Hiromi.

Sonicwonderland is Hiromi's 12th studio album, a prolific artist who has explored a number of musical spheres over the course of her career. Earlier this year she recorded the soundtrack to Blue Giant, a motion picture film based on the manga series of the same name. 2021's Silver Lining Suite features her with a string quartet and 2019's Spectrum a solo piano recording. Her work has been celebrated by the New York Times, the Washington Post, The Guardian, The Times, NPR and NPR Music, and across the BBC and beyond, and she was a featured performer at the Tokyo Olympics opening ceremony in 2021. She has worked with Stanley Clark, Chick Corea, Ahmad Jamal (who produced her first album and was her mentor), and many other jazz luminaries throughout her career, and has performed at the world's biggest jazz festivals.

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The Sonicwonderland cover was created by Lou Beach, famous for his Weather Report album covers, not to mention Blink 182's Dude Ranch and albums by Flying Burrito Brothers, Madonna and Weird Al.

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