



## Akira TANA

Born and raised in California, Akira Tana has earned degrees from Harvard University and the New England Conservatory of Music. Since coming to New York in 1979, Tana has worked with such jazz greats as Sonny Rollins, Sonny Stitt, Zoot Sims, Hubert Laws, Milt Jackson, Jim Hall, Art Farmer, The Paul Winter Consort, Paquito D'Rivera, James Moody, J.J. Johnson, Lena Horne, The Manhattan Transfer, Junior Mance, and Ruth Brown. His work has not solely been limited to the jazz field; he has accompanied artists as diverse as Charles Aznavour, Maurice Hines, and Van Dyke Parks. He has appeared on over 100 recordings.

Tana currently co-leads a quintet with the bassist Rufus Reid called TanaReid. TanaReid has five releases: *Yours and Mine* and *Passing Thoughts* on Concord Records; and *Blue Motion*, *Looking Forward*, and *Back to Front* on Evidence Music. A CD on King Records and Evidence entitled *Sound Circle* under the name of The Asian American Jazz Trio was produced by Tana and features himself, pianist Kei Akagi and Rufus Reid. Another project produced by Tana for King/Evidence is *A Tribute to Wes Montgomery (Volumes I & II)* with Kenny Burrell, Kevin Eubanks, and five other guitarists. *Secret Agent Men* is Tana's first recording as a leader to be released in the U.S.

An active teacher and clinician, Tana has taught at Rutgers University, Queens College, Jersey City State College, and New York University and is currently on the faculty at San Francisco State University.

Akira Tana is a product endorser of Yamaha Drums, Sabian Cymbals, and Vic Firth Sticks.

[www.akiratana.com](http://www.akiratana.com)