

<Affectionate Love>

From Kyoto, to the World Beyond

The narratives, practices, cadences and fragrances of Buddhism have been a part of life in Japan for so long that they are an unconscious aspect of life whether we are practicing Buddhists or not. Sutra-chanting speaks to us. We respond at a cellular level, as if ethnic memory is aroused in our DNA.

This recording combines chanting with today's music. Sutras speak to absolute truths, while improvisations are art which can never be duplicated; art that occurs in the moment of now. The Chinese character for sutra has the meaning of "warp." This album, created in the ancient capital city of Kyoto, is a tapestry of ancient and modern sounds into which we have woven our hearts, souls, and ancestral roots. The sutras, chanted for over a thousand years, are warp threads while the fleeting progressions of notes and rhythms inspired by the sutras are the wefts.

The soothing power of the sutra-chant is thought to come from its pulsating, harmonics. In this album, leading musicians across the country have come together to meet the challenge of sutra-chanting – no easy task. We invite you to visit this ephemeral forest of sound in the ancient capital of Kyoto. Come and lose yourself in this time-transcending maze of sound.

Hikaru Kawakami,
Producer,
Director of Jiwarin Kobo Studios, RAG International Music Co., Ltd.

This album is dedicated to the master sound engineer, the late Mr. David Baker and his widow, Kyoko. Through his life and works, Mr. Baker taught us, through example, the true meaning of "affectionate love."

This album is a purely artistic, experimental creation by the Bakers' friends in Japan; a non-secular work which promotes no sect, belief or affiliation.

What music can do. What RAG can do.
RAG CSR PROJECT

RAG believes in the power of music and strives to create a society where each one of us is happily connected with one another through music.

The profits from this album will be used to make Japanese music and art more readily available to a widespread audience and to make a positive contribution to the world through music.

For further information, visit our website at <http://www.ragnet.co.jp/>