**Kotaro Oshio**

Kotaro Oshio is one of a very few guitarists on the acoustic scene today who is able to cross genres with relative ease. His real focus is within the new age/easy-listening area, but there's a good bit of error in that statement. Oshio has abandoned the traditional nylon strings of the average acoustic player in favor of steel strings with some tapping and open tuning methods. In late 1999, Oshio released his debut album on an independent label in Osaka, never finding much exposure outside of the city. In the spring of 2001, his sophomore effort was released -- with somewhat more success -- leading to contracts with television shows for theme music, and a one-time special television performance. In 2002, Oshio made his debut performance at the Montreux Jazz Festival to surprising acclaim for a non-blues, non-jazz performer, and was eventually invited to B.B. King's jam session. After the gig, everyone was talking about ‘that incredible Japanese guitarist’. In the following year, he returned for another solo performance, as well as opening for ZZ Top, cementing his cross-genre abilities. The fall of 2003 saw the release of his first major label release, ‘*Dramatic’* on Narada.

In his native Japan, Kotaro Oshio plays to full auditoriums. He is definitely the master of the acoustic, steel string guitar and must be lauded for pioneering an exciting technique called nail attack which creates a half plucked and half strum/percussive sound that creates a pulsing drumtrack-like sound under the regular guitar playing. He also uses other percussive effects such as slap harmonics and guitar body slaps.

This is only a supplement to excellent melodies and compositions that reveal a real genius and musical mastery in diverse styles. His style runs mostly pop rock with mild jazz influences but he also delves in classical, blues, new age and other genres hard to characterize. Close your eyes and it is easy to be fooled by what you are hearing. Listen to *‘Hard Rain’* and you will hear a bass guitar and drummer. Wrong! He tunes his low string down almost an octave (From E to G) and adds percussive sounds on his guitar body. Oshio is truly a guitar genius and really brings science and poetry into perfect harmony.

Kotaro Oshio released his latest album PANDORA in July 2014.

**Kotaro Oshio – Wings: You Are The Hero**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FpLVL7X4gOE>

Kotaro Oshio is a Sony Music Japan recording artist and Jazz World welcomes him back for his second concert in Hong Kong.