

# KAGERO

## Japanese Gypsy Rock

(kâg er o) 1. n. heat haze; shimmering of hot air; mirage. (from the Japanese)

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### Winners of:

World Café Live Artist of the Month - Feb 2009  
2008 NPR's Mountain Stage NewSong Contest

*"Rooted in uplifting elements from eclectic origins,  
"Japanese Gypsy Rock" unites Kagero's musical influences  
and talents into a cross-culture dance party."*

Meijin Bruttomesso, The Deli Magazine

"Cultural Confusion is our specialty," confides bandleader and founder **Kaz Fujimoto**, as he drains the last of his Guinness. This cat *is* a Japanese Gypsy -- you can tell from his personal style -- maybe it's the colorful scarf, aviator goggles, his proper English accent, or his way of singing while standing on one foot. Regardless, when you see Kaz, you can almost see that surprising music. Or as they call it: Japanese Gypsy Rock, a bunch of great rock songs influenced by the music of the world, with killer hooks and rhythms that make you want to move.

Kaz and bass player **Rob Simpson** have been making music and performing together for over a decade. Fiddle player **J.W.** joined the band after a seismic shift a few years ago when Kagero began to develop their current sound.

These days the three of them travel throughout the New York Metro Area and regularly crawl into the "Kazmovan" to gig all over Pennsylvania and New Jersey or occasionally as far as Memphis, Tennessee or Charleston, West Virginia. The sound has been described as a melting pot of tonalities and rhythms from Asia, the Middle East, South America and Eastern Europe -- "Cultural Confusion". Sometimes the songs are beautiful imagery, sometimes-sad folk tales, and sometimes-silly songs about drinking. But the tunes are always fun, and the show is often a very high energy dancing good time. Kagero's world music goulash is very tasty -- even if you don't always know what you're eating.

Kagero regularly records and performs with a revolving cast of guest musicians including **Leo Santini** (drums), **Yoed** (cello), **Wynn Yamami** (chindon), **Kate Dunphy** (accordion) and **Emilio** (trumpet).

### Recent Accomplishments:

- Played over 120 local, regional and national shows in 2009
- Worked with producer Mario McNulty and released first full length album, *Japanese Gypsy Rock*, in Nov 2009
- Kaz Fujimoto was featured on Brian Lehrer Live, WNYC

### Festivals and Notable Performances:

Zlatne Uste Golden Festival, New York, NY  
BAM's Sounds Like Brooklyn, Southpaw, Brooklyn, NY  
Some King of Jam 5, Schuylkill Haven, PA  
WXPN Philly Rising, Cream-Best of 2009, Philly, PA  
Americana Music Festival, Harrisburg, PA  
The Wave Fest, Asbury Park, NJ  
Black Potatoe Festival, Clinton, NJ

CMJ Music Marathon '09, New York, NY  
Sakura Matsuri (Cherry Blossom), Brooklyn, NY  
Fetzer Fest, Allentown, PA  
Folk Alliance, Memphis, TN  
Block Island Music Festival, Block Island, RI  
Under the Bridge Festival, Brooklyn, NY  
Centenary Diversity Day, Hackettstown, NJ

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