

KAGERO

Japanese Gypsy Rock

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

Rob Simpson, Booking
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**Winners of:
2009 Best Artist Award -World Café Live
2008 Mountain Stage NewSong Contest**

"Kagero is a musical voyage where gentle acoustic melodies, heartrending farewells, and some tango create a melting pot you'll want to lick."
-Stephanie Nolasco, 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. As some have said: "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) and **Emilio** (trumpet).

Recent Accomplishments:

- Played over 100 local, regional and national shows in 2008
- Worked with producer Mario McNulty and recorded first full length album, *Japanese Gypsy Rock*

Festival and Conference Performances:

CMJ Music Marathon '09, New York, NY
Sakura Matsuri (Cherry Blossom Festival), Brooklyn, NY
Folk Alliance, Memphis, TN
Americana Music Festival, Harrisburg, PA
Mid Point Music Festival, Cincinnati, OH
Block Island Music Festival, Block Island, RI
Seaside Music Festival, Seaside Heights, NJ
The Wave Fest, Asbury Park, NJ
Under the Bridge Festival, Brooklyn, NY
Black Potatoe Festival, Clinton, NJ
Centenary College Diversity Day Festival, Hackettstown, NJ
Millennium Music Conference, Harrisburg, PA
Singer Songwriter Conference, Cape May, NJ

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