

**Jake Shimabukuro Notable Press Quotes**  
**Updated 04.2009**

"I heard his new 'Live' CD and it astonished me. It's the most intriguing and entertaining new disc I've heard in the last 10 years... It's a disc that compels and rewards close and repeated listening." – Mike Dunham, Anchorage Daily News

"The audience was immediately stunned both by the intensity of the performance and the remarkable beauty of the tenor ukulele's tone... the Stradivarius-like sound he produced was a wave of tonal bliss and perfection. The altered time signatures, chord voicing, masterful dynamics, digital articulation and the gorgeous contrast of ideas along with Jake's gentle emotional charisma made it an evening to remember...what Jake does is pure magic." – Leland Smith, Anchorage Daily News

"The performance displayed his technical prowess, emotional connection to his four-stringed instrument and outgoing personality that wrapped outstanding playing into an entertaining night. But what was most striking was the audience's respect for the performer. When Shimabukuro paused to allow space between notes, the silence gave way to the soft hum of stage lights. Rather than the whistles and screams one is used to, it was a rare, refreshing deference to the artist in action." – John Gatta, JamBands.com

"As great as Jake Shimabukuro's studio albums have been, they've stopped short of capturing the excitement of the guy who made the ukulele not only sexy but also worthy of new respect. Shimabukuro's new album, 'Live,' his first full-length CD in three years, remedies that. The album begins slowly, with the gently swaying "Trapped," and moves on to Bach's Two-Part Invention No. 4 in D Minor. By the time we get to "Me & Shirley T," we're beginning to get Shimabukuro's genius and versatility. Michael Jackson's "Thriller" has never been more thrilling, thanks to Shimabukuro's inhumanly dexterous finger work, and George Harrison's "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" will break your heart. Five Stars. - David Wiegand, San Francisco Chronicle

"Here is a description you don't hear every day: Jake Shimabukuro is a spellbinding solo ukulele player. On "Live," a concert CD, he unleashes a frothy, sonic spray of colors and churning rhythms from his uke." – Britt Robson, Minneapolis Star-Tribune

"Jake's show was an absolutely jaw-dropping instrumental performance... one of those experiences where after about 15 seconds you have the sense that you're witnessing something huge. Something you'll talk about for years." - Matt Blackett, Editor in Chief, Frets Magazine

"Ever hear a ukulele scream and cry? Shimabukuro, a 28-year-old virtuoso on the instrument, plays with the passion of a blues player and the adventurous spirit of Larry Carlton. Throw in some effects and you've got a hero waiting to be discovered. " - Bob Gulla, Guitar One

"Shimabukuro brings to mind string wizards in the class of jazz greats Pat Metheny, George Benson, and John Scofield." - Jeff Tamarkin, Editor, Global Rhythm

"Few could have envisioned the level to which this virtuoso takes [the ukulele]... a nice reminder that music has no boundaries, and that the only limit is one's creativity." - Dan Forte, Vintage Guitar

"He takes the ukulele into rock and other styles. His dizzying fingering puts him in the league with other great string wizards who are broadening the appeal of their instruments - Bela Fleck and the banjo and mandolinist Chris Thile for starters... through it all, Shimabukuro never fails to impress with his playing. He gets more out of the instrument than anyone imagined was possible." – Ellis Widner, The Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

"Shimabukuro's fourth solo album, "Dragon," showcases his astonishing dexterity, as he runs through tricky passages with remarkable speed and fluidity." – Geoff Himes, The Washington Post

"Creativity and diversity are what make Dragon so remarkable... authenticity comes through in every note." – Adam Besenyodi, PopMatters.com

"Jake is by far the most powerful instrumentalist I have ever had the pleasure of sharing the stage with... it's the first time I've seen any instrumentalist bring grown men to tears." - Jon Nicholson (of Nashville's MuzikMafia) quoted in Frets Magazine.

"His chords are as inventive as his solos are blazing." - R.J. Klimpert, Vintage Guitar

"[Jake's] crazy flipping fingers provided one show-stopping moment after another... the 28-year-old is advancing the ukulele the way Bela Fleck has advanced the banjo and Chris Thile is advancing the mandolin." - Jay Lindquist, The Indianapolis Star

"Jake is in a class by himself. He does more than just play the instrument. He plays music -- incredible music." - Victor Wooten, quoted in Frets

"Jake's crowd-pleasing solo show was dazzling. Rock, blues, jazz, classical, bluegrass and flamenco - Shimabukuro played them all with skill and dexterity" - *The San Diego Union-Tribune*

"Every so often a musician comes along who completely re-imagines the possibilities of a given instrument... Shimabukuro delivers a listening experience that both delights and surprises." - *All Music Guide*

"Hawaii's ukulele wunderkind, Jake Shimabukuro, has arrived... he has become

a phenomenon.” – *The New Yorker*

“Jake Shimabukuro is taking the ukulele to places that it's never been before.” –  
*The San Francisco Chronicle*

"Jake's crazy flipping fingers provided one show-stopping moment after another... he is advancing the ukulele the way Bela Fleck has advanced the banjo and Chris Thile is advancing the mandolin." - *The Indianapolis Star*