

Professional Experience

Arts Events Management

USA, Hong Kong, Singapore, China, Japan

1983 - 2009

Performing and Recording Artist

USA, Hong Kong, Singapore, China, Japan

1983 – Present

Sales and Community Service

USA

1987-2011

Professional Highlights

Arts Events Management

Entrepreneurial Projects, USA

Chako Productions – Founded and established a sole-proprietorship and the Chako Productions brand in 1983.

Jazz at the Jeff - Wrote a successful grant application in 1984 to the Massachusetts State Council for the Arts to run a concert series featuring African-American jazz musicians from the New England area; Booked and led the musical performances; Secured press and media coverage; Sourced and acquired the venue (The Lord Jeffery Inn, Amherst MA) and 50% “matching funds” from local area businesses.

Pioneer Jazz Society - Founded in 1984 a Not-for-Profit Jazz Society; Wrote the by-laws and enlisted a Board of Directors; Launched its inception with an out-door music festival called *Jazz Extravaganza*; negotiated for the venue; organized press coverage, all performers, equipment, and food and beverage for the event.

Doc's Place, Cincinnati, OH - “Sitting in” on guitar with friends one night and some pro-active entrepreneurial spirit led, in 1985, to an agency contract to book three to four nights a week of various music performances featuring local and international acts; Designed monthly music rosters printed on place-mats for each table; Created innovative marketing “events;” Started a mailing list; Designed company stationery with matching business logo, cards, letterhead, and envelopes.

Entrepreneurial Projects, Singapore

Chako Productions Pte. Ltd. - Founded and incorporated in 1994; served as Managing Director; within less than three years of its inception, this full-service agency became a major competitor for the lucrative entertainment industry in the Singapore region; Managed over S\$1,000,000.00 in annual income by procuring and promoting gigs and entertainment events, as well as a diverse, multi-cultural, full-time staff of more than 30 people.

Starwood Hotels and Resorts Worldwide - Appointed in 1999 as entertainment agent in for the Westin Plaza and Westin Stamford Hotels in Singapore; Managed a regular daily roster of about 20 artists; Booked bands and soloists for their various venues, a contract worth tens of thousands of dollars per month; Produced a professional video recording, *Coco York and Greg Chako Live on the Silk Road*, recorded live at Somerset's Bar in the Westin Plaza; Contracted in 2002 to head entertainment for their new Westin Bund Center in Shanghai, China.

Raffles Hotel and Raffles International, Singapore & Cambodia - Led house band of The Bar and Billiard Room of Raffles Hotel 1995-2002; Set all-time record for positive (written) guest feedback; Originated professional videos aired on public TV and recorded a live CD; Reported personally to the Executive Vice President of Operations of Raffles International, MPS Puri; Handled a huge budget and wide variety of entertainment services for all their venues in Singapore and one in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The mutually fruitful business relationship developed with Puri and Raffles International led to a major entertainment project at The Fullerton, Singapore.

The Fullerton - Asked by MPS Puri to “take his [entertainment] headaches away” at a 5-star luxury hotel with numerous F&B outlets; Managed all entertainment, including functions (Louis Vuitton), and many genres of music in different areas of the facility from morning to night; Oversaw a monthly budget of about US\$50,000.

Entrepreneurial Projects, Singapore . . .

Chi-Jazz Festival Chijmes - Invited initially to headline a 1998 appearance at a large outdoor music festival; Organized a special Latin-Jazz vocal septet to perform; Arranged a video production of the concert, titled after the septet's name: *World Beat*; Led subsequent marketing efforts and was asked to run (as their entertainment agent for two years) a regular concert series for Chijmes Investment Pte. Ltd., called *Just Jazz*.

Pan Pacific - Cold-called management of the Pan Pacific Hotel, Singapore in 1994 and proposed to take over their entertainment, subsequently acquiring Chako Productions' first three-month entertainment contract in Singapore: to lead *The Greg Chako Jazz Explosion* in the Copacabana of the Pan Pacific Singapore six nights a week; Imported musicians from New York City and maintained the entertainment contract there for two consecutive years.

Cultivated a regular, repeat client pool – American's Women's Association; World Gourmet Food Summit; Ministry of the Arts; Port of Singapore Authority; Television Corporation of Singapore; Compaq Computers; Coca-Cola; Citibank; CNN; Singapore Airlines; US Navy; American Embassy; Visa International; US Ambassador Steven Green; Tony and Melanie Chew (of Del Monte); The American Club; British Club; Swiss Club; Singapore Recreation Club; The Grand Hyatt; Ritz-Carlton; The Oriental, The Four Seasons, Hilton Hotel, and many others.

Entrepreneurial Projects, Hong Kong

Chako Productions - In less than two years, 1992-1994, as a solely English-speaking newcomer, established a sole-proprietorship that ran regular concert series and created innovative events for Hong Kong's prime venues.

Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group - Headhunted in 1994 to lead a fortnight of jazz at the famous Captain's Bar of The Oriental, Hong Kong; Arranged a live recording that led to a CD release, *Everything I Love*; secured a steady gig there and negotiated for the CD to be sold in their gift-shop; asked to lead a sequel engagement in 1995 and assisted with the marketing of that, garnering numerous featured articles and reviews in the Hong Kong press; Hired as exclusive agent to run all the entertainment at The Oriental, Singapore in 1996, establishing a successful long term business relationship with this global hotel management organization.

Sourced and serviced a premier client list - Swire Group; Hong Kong Urban Council; Hong Kong Cultural Center; American Chamber of Commerce; Landmark - HK Land and Property Co.; Art Asia; The Freemasons; Elite Concepts (an up-market group of F&B outlets); Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club; Jockey Club; Hong Kong Country Club; Foreign Correspondents Club; Ladies Recreation Club; The Ritz-Carlton; The Peninsula; etc.

Entrepreneurial Projects, Japan

The Imperial Hotel - Led weekly duet with piano 2005-2008 at Tokyo's most famous and highly regarded hotel; Organized two duos called, *Smooth as Silk* with a vocalist, and *The Imperial Duo* with the steady pianist's; Recorded a live-CD, *Two's Company, Three's a Crowd*, with liner notes and a website translated into Japanese; Asked to play for corporate executives when Tokyo-Mitsubishi Bank merged with Merrill Lynch and proposed the CD to be used as part of the exclusive guests' take-away gift bags.

The Intercontinental Yokohama Grand - Used a steady 10-month band-leading engagement at their Starboard Music Lounge to form the *Collaboration Quartet*, comprised of two Japanese and two American members, which in turn, led to highlight performances, a tour of Japan, a live TV concert appearance, and a 2008 CD release featuring the group called, *Everybody's Got a Name*.

Developed and serviced repeat customers - Louis Vuitton; Tiffany; Cartier; Mont Blanc; Chanel; Adidas; Takashimiyu; Goldman Sachs; Merrill Lynch; Tokyo-Mitsubishi Bank; Toyota; The British and Canadian Embassies; The Four Seasons; Tokyo Dome and Keio Plaza Hotels; XEX; Mannoir d'Inno; Il Mulino; and jazz clubs: Airegin; Motion Blue; The Cotton Club; Body and Soul; JZ Brat; The Pit Inn; B-Flat, among others.

Performing and Recording Artist

USA

Doc's Place, Cincinnati, OH - Led house band 1985-1987, *The Greg Chako Jazz Explosion*, hosting Junior Cook, Jim Snidero, Bobby Watson, Lanny Morgan, Jimmy Raney, Herb Ellis, Cal Collins, Othello Molineaux, Johnny Lytle, Mike Wolfe, Rusty Bryant, Jimmy McGary, Glenn Wilson, Steve Schmidt, and Phil DeGreg, among others.

Lord Jeffery Inn, Amherst, MA – Hosted Bill Hardman, Paul Brown, Avery Sharpe, Charles “Majeed” Greenlee, Ed Jones, Joe Fonda, Nat Reeves, Ray Copeland, and Dr. Frederick Tillis, among others, 1983-1985.

Bright Moments Jazz Festival Amherst, MA - Performed in 1984 as “warm-up” for Billy Taylor’s All-Stars.

Shanghai, China and Japan

The Niche Bar, Westin Bund Center – In 2002-2003, led group featuring vocalist Dee Dee McNeil, pianist Jack Holland, and bassist Donald Jackson; dubbed by the press: “. . . **the finest jazz act to ever play in the PRC**”

JZ Brat, Motion Blue, and Bar, Bar, Bar, Japan – *Collaboration Quartet/Quintet* 2007-2009, with drummer Gene Jackson (from Herbie Hancock), including a tour; video productions; and a TV show called *Yokohama Sounds*.

The Cotton Club and Body-n-Soul Tokyo, Japan - Performed original arrangements and featured guitar performances with drummer Tommy Campbell’s (from Sonny Rollins and Dizzy Gillespie) *Organ-Eyes Vocal Session Band* (featuring organist Daisuke Kawai and singer Glynis Martin) and *Pro-Jack Session Band* (featuring saxophonist Steve Sax), from 2007-2009.

Singapore

Jazz in the Park, Fort Canning Park - Headlined a large outdoor 2001 event, sponsored by The American Woman’s Association, with a 10-piece little big band featuring all-original music.

2002 Heineken Jazz Festival Malaysia and Singapore - Led original recording personnel from the *Integration II* CD, with Steve Thornton (from Miles Davis), for multiple shows in Kuala Lumpur and Singapore.

Tribute to Miles Davis, Botanic Gardens – Led the first 1997 rendition of the *World Beat* band. Video clips of the performance were recorded as part of a documentary movie called, *An American at in the Lion City*.

Chi-Jazz and Just Jazz Festival, Chijmes – Headlined multiple groups, in 1998-2000, featuring original music.

Bar and Billiard Room, Raffles Hotel – Led house trio for six years, hosting guest artists including saxophonist Gordan Brisker, singer Carol Kidd, drummer Akira Jimbo (from Casiopea) and guitarist Curtis Roberts.

The Copacabana, Pan Pacific Hotel – Led groups with drummer Redd Holt (from Ramsey Lewis) and bassist Belinda Moody; and with bassist Victor Gaskin (from Billy Taylor), pianist Mario Serio, and singer Jean DuShon.

Hong Kong

Captain’s Bar of The Oriental and The Jazz Club - Led weekly trio for almost three years; Played *The Jazz Club* with own group and as guest artist with trombonist Curtis Fuller and saxophonist Richie Cole.

Asian Internet Awards Ceremony, The Grand Hyatt, and Brown’s Jazz Club – Led quartet from Singapore on a seven-concert mini-tour in 2001, featuring the percussion and “*didjeridu*” of Reggie Perera.

Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra; West Side Story; and Barnum – Guest soloist for the Hong Kong Pops Concert at the Hong Kong Coliseum; Orchestra member in the HK Academy of Arts presentation conducted by Wing Sie-Yip; Orchestra member of the original West End production at the HK Cultural Center (1993-1994).

Performing Artist, Featured Arrangements

Kilbourn Hall, Rochester, NY; Shea Performing Arts Center, Wayne, NJ – Original songs played by The Eastman Jazz Ensemble directed by Bill Dobbins, 2012-2013; Original arrangement played by Bernie Williams and the William Paterson (WP) Jazz Orchestra as part of the 2010 Distinguished Lecturer Series hosted by WP University.

Recording Artist

Released 10 Internationally Acclaimed Jazz CDs – Includes: Fifty original compositions, some with lyrics; variety of musical formats; unique stylistically, with interesting instrumentation; functioned as leader and musical director, arranger and contractor; authored liner notes, conceptualized cover art, led all production and business aspects; got charted, international radio airplay, and consistently rave reviews (see examples below).

CDs

My World on Six Strings, 2013 - “. . . a total orchestra! The complete package . . .” - *Gene Bertoncini*

Everybody's Got a Name, 2008 – “Greg Chako is the consummate musician . . . nothing less than outstanding! Sophisticated, cool guitar work in combination with a superb cast. Simply marvelous!” - *All About Jazz*

Paint a Picture, Tell a Story, 2007 - “Colorful, percussive, straight-ahead jazz compositions, bright ensembling with horns, and fluid, emotionally dynamic guitar improvising; many emotional hooks; a transcendent universalism that goes beyond the usual geographic boundaries of jazz.” – *iTunes Preview*

Two's Company, Three's a Crowd, 2006 - “Warm, intimate, swinging; award winning lines; highly recommended; high quality; individually unique” – *Edward Blanco, Ejazz News*

Where We Find Ourselves, 2005 - “A reality check on so many levels. What kind of balls does it take to record a double album of all original jazz in four days and make it sound like a classic Bluenote, World Pacific or Verve date? They must have grown up eating Rudy Van Gelder sessions for breakfast to absorb this kind of vibe. Chako straddles being familiar and unique in the same interval with such style that you're sure you've been here before but you know you haven't . . . simply a delightful heaping helping of cool jazz that moves and grooves and is sure to win you over before the first track is over. Why is this guy recording for his own label? You put the machine behind this cat and you could crash Amazon's servers.” – *Chris Spector, Midwest Record Recap*

Integration II, 2001 - “Transcends geographic boundaries and cultures; communicates the happiness and friendship that all music should provide; well-crafted tunes, harmonically strong, with catchy, memorable melodies (unlike many contemporary offerings today). Exceptional! Thoughtfully created, perfectly executed; a positive musical statement from an extremely talented composer and performer.” – *Vince Lewis, Just Jazz Guitar*

Integration, 2000 - “Hard Bop mixed with rhythms and sounds of the Far East, Latin, exotic sounds of the Australian outback, blues, jazz funk, and a lovely ballad . . . recalls those exciting hard blowing small group sessions of the 1960s. Imaginative application of tempo and harmony filled with some unexpected jagged rhythmic diversions guaranteed to keep listener attention. Recommended!” - *David Nathan, All Music Guide*

Integration I & II: “. . . the culmination of many studio hours, tremendous discipline, concentration, and the ability to employ all musical strengths in every composition; A jazz mosaic painted with the very best of cultural, ethnic, and musical sensibilities; a striking sumptuousness and extensiveness in the music that is rarely found in any genre . . . of the world's best kept secrets. An essential jazz experience.” – *Keith Hannaleck, JazzReviews*
“. . . Full of nuances, integrating fusion, blues, and swing. His guitar shines and he creates a new style, breathing exotic jazz-ethno music full of spirit and solid musical foundation” - *Jazz Dimensions, Germany*

The Greg Chako Trio (and friends) Live at Raffles, 1998 - “. . . burnished, luminous guitar lines throbbing along with crisp backing - negotiated with agile skill - laid back vocals and lovely guitar.” - *Jazz Journal, U.K.*

Sudden Impact, 1996 - “Old standbys spiced up with Latin rhythms, experiencing a sudden ubiquity and fresh sound. Originals sound contemporary, colored with understated funk, backbeats, and interesting structures well worth exploring.” – *Cadence, USA*

Everything I Love, 1994 - “The technical constraints of playing with his thumb nurture a lyricism and maturity seldom found. Everything about this CD, from the choice of material to the sensitive support, oozes class. His tone is warm, yet incisive. It's a refreshing CD, with no meaningless flights of technical virtuosity or unnecessary electronic processing.” - *Just Jazz Guitar, USA*