

Suzuki Ami

CONNETTA

Avex Trax

AVCD-23253/B (CD+DVD ver. 1), AVCD-23254/B

(CD+DVD ver. 2), AVCD-23255 (CD) | Dur: 1:03

Website: www.avexnet.or.jp/ami/

RELEASE DATE: March 21, 2007

01. Aozora to Water / AMI SUZUKI joins Kaji Hideki
02. Alright! / AMI SUZUKI joins HAL
03. Peace Otodoke!! / AMI SUZUKI joins THC!!
04. Dancin' Little Woman / AMI SUZUKI joins SCOOBIE DO
05. Hare moyou/ AMI SUZUKI joins Kihara Ryutaro
06. To be Free / AMI SUZUKI joins HAL
07. Squall ni Nurete/ AMI SUZUKI joins Ueda Kenji
08. EVERYTHING TO me / AMI SUZUKI joins NORTHERN BRIGHT
09. O. K. Funky God / AMI SUZUKI joins Buffalo Daughter
10. Fantastic / AMI SUZUKI joins Harada Noritomo
11. Crystal / AMI SUZUKI joins Kikuchi Kazuhito
12. Sore mo kitto shiawase/ AMI SUZUKI joins Kirinji
13. Like a Love? / AMI SUZUKI joins Otsuka Ai
14. Aishitteru Kitto/ AMI SUZUKI joins Tsuji Ayano

DVD (VERSION 1): Region 2

- Original Short Movie "join" (32 minutes, 16:9 LB)

- join Artists' studio making clip "BEHIND THE SCENES" (11 minutes, 4:3)

- Singles TV SPOT Collection (5 minutes)

DVD (VERSION 2): Region 2

- "happy 25th anniversary" live at Shibuya Duo

- join Artists' studio making clip "BEHIND THE SCENES" (11 minutes, 4:3)

- Singles TV SPOT Collection (5 minutes)

Following a similar theme created by m-flo with their "m-flo loves" theme, Suzuki Ami follows with her own theme "AMI SUZUKI joins" in her latest album "CONNETTA" with over a dozen collaborations with mainstream and non-mainstream artists.

But for Suzuki Ami, she goes a step further by integrating herself in different musical genres and the result is definitely vibrant and fresh.

It's definitely something different and with the musical scene in Japan crowded with so many artists focused on dance and R&B, it's great to see Suzuki Ami try something different.

The album features her previous released CD singles "Crystal", "Fantastic", "Alright!", "Like a Love?", "Sore mo kitto shiawase", "Peace Otodoke!!" and "O.K. Funky God", with some songs receiving a special treatment with the artists that she is collaborating with.

In "CONNETTA", Suzuki Ami gets the Shibuya-kei treatment with songs such as "O.K. Funky God" in which she is joined with Shibuya-kei band Buffalo Daughter for an effortlessly funky style that I'm quite amazed about the collaboration frankly.

I would have never seen a collaboration with Buffalo Daughter and a J-Pop singer like Suzuki Ami ever happening but it happened and the result is terrific.

Also, another Shibuya-kei collaboration on this album featured Suzuki Ami with Kaji Hideki for the song "Aozora to water". Another cool song with dance, rock grooves that makes it quite enjoyable to listen to.



< Collaborations Gallore!

Suzuki Ami latest album "CONNETTA" is an album full of musical collaborations.

Suzuki also gets the rock treatment with songs such as "Peace Otodoke!!" which is a pop/rock song in which she joins with 6-member rock band THC!! (Teens Hate Chains!!), "EVERYTHING TO me" featuring a collaboration with rock band NORTHERN STAR.

Also, featured is a soulful rock song with SCOOBIE DO for the song "Dancin' Little Woman".

The album has its share of beautiful ballads.

I really enjoyed the ballad "Sore mo kitto shiawase" which she collaborated with music duo Kirinji which has a My Little Lover-like feel to it.

Also, another beautiful, smooth ballad with musician and producer Kihara Ryutaro titled "Hare moyou."

Another fun, unusual and interesting collaboration that I enjoyed is with Tsuji Ayano.

Known for combining her music with ukulele, the same inspiration for the whimsical song "Aishitteru Kitto!"

Of course, Suzuki fans wanting more dance-inspired songs should not worry because HAL makes a return for two tracks "Alright!" and "To be Free" with Suzuki Ami.

As for the DVD, the half hour short film "join" highlights Suzuki Ami as an actress (note: Suzuki Ami was announced to be one of the voice actresses for the anime "Skull Man" recently) and features a group of people working together to paint a mural on a wall.

Also, feature on the DVD is an "artist studio

"BEHIND THE SCENES" clip which shows the different groups and artists with Suzuki Ami working and singing the songs together.

Definitely a blast to see Suzuki Ami performing with BUFFALO DAUGHTER, THC!! and SCOOBIE DO.

To complete the DVD is the TV commercial spots for her CD singles and album (that are released on the Avex Trax label).

A second CD+DVD version (AVCD-23254/B) was released which instead of the short film "join" comes with a video clip of concert footage of Suzuki Ami performing three songs from the February 8, 2007 birthday live concert "happy 25th anniversary at the Shibuya Duo".

All in all, I really enjoyed this album.

I know that many people who are dedicated fans of Suzuki Ami's dance music may not be really accepting to the Shibuya-kei, rock, funk and experimental tracks that Suzuki Ami is typically not known for.

But I feel that this is the kind of album that Suzuki Ami needed to do. To show that she can be utilized in different musical situations if needed and also to experiment with something new.

This album might not be for everyone, especially if you are very gung-ho for Suzuki Ami's dance music but if you are open to different forms of music, definitely give "CONNETTA" a try.

— DENNIS A. AMITH