



Nori Iji (left), director of the Music Performance Academy in Albambra, and Business Director Kota Oiwa are making plans for a Spring Showcase on April 8. Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about the academy, located at 1641 W. Main St., Suite 320

The Music Performance Academy emphasizes techniques of live performance

The Music Performance Academy, 1641 W. Main St., Suite 320, is, according to one local musician, "A hidden gem."

While the academy teaches musical students from beginners to professional, its emphasis is on the art and techniques of live performance. It provides private lessons and group sessions, and its one-year and two-year performance training programs include multiple professional workshops and a CD project.

Under the leadership of Director Nori Iji, a noted performer (on bass guitar) in his own right, the performance training program offers rhythm and ear training, recording workshop, music theory, composing and arranging, self-accompaniment, body language and dance, sight reading and singing, instrumental workshops, improvisation workshop, and more.

Additionally, the academy offers a variety of events, including concerts, jam sessions, performance workshops, recording, composing, auditions, and opportunities to sit in at live performances. Those sit-in opportunities usually involve approximately 10 performers, a mixture of students and professionals, all learning to work together for the best performance blend possible.

Music Performance Academy attendees are a mix of local musicians and students from Japan, many of whom come not only to hone their musical performance skills, but to also improve their English language skills at the language school also located at

the Main and Marengo site.

The teacher resource includes 20+ working professionals (many whom musical aficionados would recognize) who perform and record with some of the biggest names in the music industry.

Billy Mitchell, for instance, has performed at the most prestigious jazz festivals in the world, has appeared in film (most notably, in Clint Eastwood's *Bird*), his book *The Giggling Musician* is read and respected throughout the industry, and his recordings always rate high in Billboard's contemporary jazz charts.

Barbara Morrison is a jazz and blues legend. She has earned stardom through her performances around the world, in clubs, at jazz festivals, and on recordings.

Interested students and the general public are invited to get a taste of the results of the Music Performance Academy experience at its Spring Showcase beginning at 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 8 at 1641 W. Main, Suite 207.

For more information about the Music Performance Academy, contact Nori Iji at 626-282-0628 or send him an e-mail at into@musicperformanceacademy.com. If proficient in the Japanese language, check out the academy's Web site at www.musicperformanceacademy.com. If not, the English language version will be online in the very near future.