

= Go to the Future =

Go to the Future ( Japanese pronunciation : [ go : tsʔ : zaʔjʔ : tʔa ] ) is the debut studio album by Japanese band Sakanaction . It was released on May 9 , 2007 through Victor Entertainment sub @-@ label BabeStar . Recorded and produced in the band 's native Hokkaido in a month , the album compiled the band 's early songs , including compositions from the band 's vocalist Ichiro Yamaguchi 's high @-@ school band Dutchman . The album mixed electronic and rock music conventions , and featured live instruments as a way to conceptually separate the album from pure dance music .

Though not commercially successful nationally , the album was well received in Hokkaido . The leading song of the album , " Mikazuki Sunset " , received strong airplay by radio stations such as FM North Wave and FM Hokkaido . Critics praised the album , noting Yamaguchi 's distinct vocals and the band 's varied electronic and rock sound .

In 2009 , the album was made available globally as a digital download , alongside the band 's second and third albums Night Fishing ( 2008 ) and Shin @-@ shiro ( 2009 ) . In 2015 , the album was reissued on CD , LP record and lossless digital formats .

= Background and development =

Sakanaction was first formed in August 2005 in Sapporo , Hokkaido . It was originally a two @-@ member unit , consisting of vocalist Ichiro Yamaguchi and guitarist Motoharu Iwadera . Yamaguchi first worked together with Iwadera in the band Dutchman , that formed at their high school in 1998 and performed British rock @-@ inspired music . In 2004 , the band broke up , and Yamaguchi took the name for his solo project , where he created techno and club music . Yamaguchi had the idea that it would be interesting to mix electronic music with Japanese @-@ style " folky melodies " , so formed Sakanaction with Iwadera .

Bassist Ami Kusakari first joined the band as a support member in December 2005 . She was originally in a separate band that often performed at the same events as Dutchman . When her band broke up , Yamaguchi took advantage of this and asked her to join . In the summer of 2006 , keyboardist Emi Okazaki and drummer Keiichi Ejima joined the band to form the group 's current five @-@ member line @-@ up . Ejima was introduced to Yamaguchi through a friend , and Okazaki was originally a co @-@ worker of Yamaguchi 's . Before the band 's debut , they mostly performed at live houses around Sapporo . In August , the band made their first festival appearance at the Rising Sun Rock Festival in Yamaguchi 's home town of Otaru . During this period , Sakanaction sent demos of their songs " Mikazuki Sunset " and later " Shiranami Top Water " to College Radio Japan Sapporo . Both songs were well received by listeners , managing to be in the top five weekly songs for the radio program , and " Shiranami Top Water " charted in the top 100 songs on FM North Wave 's Sapporo Hot 100 chart in September .

While a member of Dutchman , Yamaguchi had been scouted and trained by Victor Entertainment . After they had managed to go through the audition process to perform at the Rising Sun Rock Festival , Yamaguchi sent his material with Sakanaction to his contact at Victor , which led to the band 's debut through BabeStar . Originally the group featured three official members , after drummer Ejima had been added , but for the group 's major label debut they officially promoted support members Kusakari and Okazaki . The band was unveiled as being on BabeStar 's line @-@ up in February 2007 .

= Writing and production =

The album was recorded at two locations in Sapporo , Studio Jack at the Yamaha Center in Ch?? @-@ ku , and at Chieria Studio in the Sapporo Lifelong Learning Center in Nishi @-@ ku . After it was commissioned , the album took only a month to produce , as Sakanaction mostly reworked demos they had already produced to create an album . Only the song " Yoru no Higashigawa " was written specifically for the album . Two of the songs had been released by Yamaguchi 's first band

Dutchman , " Inner World " in 2002 and " Mikazuki Sunset " in 2003 . As a soloist , Yamaguchi released a remix of the song " Shiranami Top Water " on the compilation album Music for Pardisco in 2004 . Retrospectively , Yamaguchi said that Go to the Future felt like a business card for Sakanaction , due to the album being a compilation of already created songs .

The album was recorded and produced entirely in Hokkaido , including the album 's cover artwork and music videos . When writing the songs , Yamaguchi thought up imagery for each song , and asked the other band members to picture this while creating and performing the songs . Yamaguchi created the album 's music and melody while thinking about how they would be received by other people , but wrote the lyrics entirely introspectively . " Mikazuki Sunset " and " Shiranami Top Water " were the first songs produced by the band , and were the band 's first attempts at making club @-@ style music . Due to their success on college radio , Yamaguchi felt like this was proof that the mix of dance music with Japanese melodies was a good direction , and continued to make music in this style . Yamaguchi was inspired by the differences in house and techno music styles when writing the album . Yamaguchi was mindful about how to reach a wide audience , and considered that live instruments were important to stress how the album was rock music , as pure dance music was based on electronic and sampled instruments . One convention the band kept for the album was to record everything at 126BPM , to make it easier for the band 's drummer , who had not experienced performing dance music before .

Yamaguchi considered folky melodies on top of techno and house music the core of Sakanaction 's sound on Go to the Future . In a retrospective interview conducted with Rockin ' On Japan in 2011 , Yamaguchi felt that his need to construct his own personal musical vision was too strong , and felt like the other members of Sakanaction had too little say in the album 's content . " Amefura " was the first song that Sakanaction worked on together as a five @-@ piece band , and was created to be a playful song mixing American and French styles . " Go to the Future " was originally an acoustic song , that grew into a triple metre song when the band developed their electronic sound . The song as the band originally envisioned it was re @-@ recorded for their 2015 compilation album Natsukashii Tsuki wa Atarashii Tsuki : Coupling & Remix Works . Footage on the visual media disc of the album shows Yamaguchi and Iwadera returning to the studio where they had originally performed the song in Sapporo , to recreate the song . The published version of the song " Fukur? " found on the album used the ad @-@ libbed lyrics Yamguchi had created while composing the guitar chords of the song .

= = Promotion and release = =

The album was primarily promoted by the song " Mikazuki Sunset " . The song was used on several television programs as opening or closing credit music , including MM @-@ TV on Mainichi Broadcasting System , Music @-@ 03 on Chiba Television Broadcasting and Yumechika 18 on Hokkaido Television Broadcasting . Both " Mikazuki Sunset " and " Shiranami Top Water " received music videos . " Mikazuki Sunset " ' s video was directed by Yoshihiro Mori , and " Shiranami Top Water " ' s by Hokkaido artist Hiroshi Kondo . A special website was created to promote Go to the Future , which opened on April 26 . It featured the music videos of the two promotional songs on the album , as well as song commentary by Yamaguchi .

Live performances of " Mikazuki Sunset " and " Inner World " were broadcast on Yumechika 18 on May 16 , featuring footage of the band 's performance at the Sapporo Kraps Hall on April 28 . Sakanaction performed a short tour of Japan to promote the album 's release , performing concerts in Tokyo , Osaka and Nagoya from May 11 to May 13 , and held a solo @-@ billed live at Bessie Hall in Sapporo on May 27 . The band were featured in many major magazine publications in Japan to promote the album , including Pia , CD Data , What 's In ? , Barfout ! and Rockin ' On Japan .

In 2015 the album was reissued , initially on vinyl record and a CD re @-@ release in March , followed by a lossless digital release . Originally the band had planned on releasing a new studio album around March 2015 , however could not do so due to bassist Kusakari 's pregnancy .

= = Reception = =

### == Critical reception ==

CDJournal online reviewers gave the album their star of recommendation , praised the variety of sounds and tempos on the album , as well as the " peculiar musical world " created by Yamaguchi 's " dry " vocals layered on top of a " floating @-@ feeling " techno and " funky " sound . They further noted Sakanaction 's intense usage of surround sound during the album . Reviewer Yuji Tayama praised the album for its multi @-@ faceted nature , and focused his praise on Emi Okazaki 's keyboard work , the band 's " funky rhythms " and vocalist Ichiro Yamaguchi 's " nostalgic , youthful vocals " . He felt the album had a " dazzling " and " refined " pop sense echoed in their " clear ' vocal post @-@ rock ' sound " , and described the album as being " at times colorful like the pattern of a tropical fish , and at times gloomy like the mood of a deep sea fish " . Mayumi Tsuchida of Bounce felt the album 's strength was the harmony between the " [ rock ] band sound smeared with techno and electronica " and Yamaguchi 's sorrowful , literary lyrics . She singled out " Shiranami Top Water " as the best example of this , feeling that its " bouncy synths and elegant guitar " worked together to " paint a spiral " and soared together , to create " breathtaking beauty " . Retrospectively , Entertainment Media Kulture felt that the album showed Sakanaction still in the process of finding their sound , with many aspects feeling avant @-@ garde .

### == Commercial reception ==

In its debut week , Go to the Future was the number 105 most sold album in Japan , according to the Japanese music chart Oricon , selling 1 @, @ 500 copies . It continued to chart in the top 300 for an additional four weeks , selling an additional 3 @, @ 000 copies . During the release of the band 's single " Aruku Around " in January 2010 , the album re @-@ charted for a single week , bringing the total tracked number of copies sold to 5 @, @ 000 . In 2015 , the album 's reissued version debuted at number 55 , selling 1 @, @ 500 copies in its first week , and bringing the total copies of the album sold to 7 @, @ 000 . Tracking the regional sales of Japanese Tower Records stores , CDJournal noted a significant number of copies sold in Sapporo . In its first week , Go to the Future was the second most sold album , only behind Mr. Children 's B @-@ Side ; selling 200 copies at Sapporo 's Tower Records and HMV stores . CDJournal noted the album had a mid @-@ level success in two Tokyo locations , notably at the Tower Records Shibuya where it sold 100 copies in the first ten days . However , CDJournal did not note any significant sales in the other regional centers of Nagoya , Osaka and Fukuoka .

In May , " Mikazuki Sunset " reached number two on FM North Wave 's airplay and sales chart , the Sapporo Hot 100 , while the song " Shiranami Top Water " also received minor radio airplay during this time . Radio data compiler Plantech tracked the song as being the second most played song in Hokkaido in early May . " Mikazuki Sunset " eventually became the 66th most successful song of 2007 on the Sapporo Hot 100 .

### == Track listing ==

All songs written and composed by Ichiro Yamaguchi .

### == Personnel ==

Personnel details were sourced from Go to the Future 's liner notes booklet .

Sakanaction

Personnel and imagery

### == Charts ==

== Sales ==

== Release history ==