

# ARTHUR FOWLER

Tokyo Guitarist and Singer/Songwriter

2014 Debut Album

## WHAT'S KEEPING ME GOING

<http://artfowler.com/>



### *The Artist*

Arthur Fowler found his groove as a teenaged Jimi Hendrix emulator on the East Side of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and matriculated to the blues jam scene in the early 1980s. He played original music with jazz diva Kelley Johnson, a fellow student at the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music, and studied with virtuoso guitarist, innovator, and educator, Jack Grassel.

In college town cover bands and jazz jams, while studying literature and languages, Arthur collaborated with the likes of band leader Mark Schlaefter. He joined acclaimed vocalist Eva Denia's first jazz ensemble as she was beginning her career in Valencia, Spain, and neighboring resort cities on the Mediterranean coast. In Valencia, Arthur also studied with one of Spain's top jazz guitarists, Joan Soler.

Arthur is now playing jazz, blues, and pop in Tokyo (Shinjuku) in various settings including regularly with soulful vocalist Noriko Shigehara as the Shake It Hard Band. Arthur's other Tokyo scene includes one of Tokyo's foremost Irish fiddlers, multi-instrumentalist Jim Ediger, with bassist Alan Gleason in the acoustic folk and rock band AJA.

Arthur keeps mining his sound from his long time interests in Wes Montgomery, Jimi Hendrix, psychedelic icon Jerry Garcia, and Latino megastar Carlos Santana. His songwriting may evoke Neil Young, or James Taylor, but his vocal style also draws on classic sounds like Nat King Cole and Billie Holiday.

Arthur is available for bookings in the greater Tokyo area (and beyond) as a solo performer, session artist, or band member.

### *The Album What's Keeping Me Going*

While the songs on this album are inspirations from Arthur Fowler's passionate youth, they are also the fruit of his maturity as an artist and the powerful international collaboration of Japanese and U.S. musicians. Collaborators include world-renowned blues harpist Matthew Skoller on three tunes and D.C.-based hip-hop artist RiMaNi on backing vocals, along with various Tokyo-area studio musicians. Musical producer and recording engineer Seiki Kitano (Bang On Recordings) has provided his signature attention to detail and warm and natural recording style to make this debut an original album of singular quality.

#### ARTHUR FOWLER



#### WHAT'S KEEPING ME GOING

With only two cover tunes, by Neil Young and Jimi Hendrix, the genre of this album is also original, though it is best described as Acoustic Rock in the tradition of Neil Young or even Cat Stevens.

The music has also been described as Acid Folk, with a lot of space for lyrical and moody improvisational guitar and dark moments of soul-wrenching self-expression.

Jazz inflections and some hints of a New Age sensibility make the style of Arthur's compositions hard to classify and worthy of repeated listenings.