



**Ryuichi Coochie Man:** Sakamoto, a man with a canny intelligence.

## Ryuichi Sakamoto

★★★★

### Playing The Piano/ Out Of Noise DECCA

**The Japanese composer at the joanna and experimenting with sound.**

Captured live across Japan, the first disc on *Playing The Piano* presents Sakamoto at his most accessible, alone on-stage picking out sweetly naïve melodies from his last 30 years of solo work (*The Sheltering Sky*, *Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence*). Yet even in this deceptively simple setting you can hear the canny intelligence of Sakamoto's melodic brain, pushing these miniatures to their limit as if he were Toru Takemitsu moonlighting at Windham Hill. However, to fully appreciate where Sakamoto can take his delicate sound, and why he chooses to work with such artists as Alva Noto and Christian Fennesz, check out the bonus CD, in which Sakamoto's watercolour landscapes are stretched, scrubbed, brushed, polished and torn by electronic caws and drones, voices and violas and found sounds of nature.

*Andrew Male*