

Chikako Watanabe (Vocal) and Shigeo Tamaru (Guitar/Producer) came together to form NaNa in 1996. NaNa's chief goal was to create high quality demo tapes that would showcase their music to the world market.

In the summer of 1997, the members sent an e-mail to the staff of the Gut Label web site. This contact exposed, Mr. Ryuichi Sakamoto was to their sound. The vocalist, Chikako Watanabe was picked to be a featured vocalist on his regular radio program J-Wave gut online. On this program five outstanding producers including Ryuichi Sakamoto, Tetsuya Komuro, Shigeo Tamaru worked with Chikako to create a completely new song(The song "RED" was produced by Tamaru at that time. After that the track turned into a NaNa's first maxi single that was released by gut bounce).

In September of the same year NaNa signed a Japanese distribution contract with "gut bounce", The Indies label was created through a collaboration between Tower Records and For Life's Gut Label. Then they started recording their first EP "RED". NaNa worked with Bryan Burton-Lewis who has reputation for English language lyrics from his work.

In January 1998, NaNa went to the U.S. and worked with the world famous mastering engineer Ted Jensen who is well known for his work with artists like Eagles, MUSE, Sigur Ros, The Police, Pat Metheny, Miles Davis, and Madonna. Their work was highly praised.

The fist EP "RED" released on March 15, 1998 went to #1 on the Indies chart after appearing in record stores throughout the Tokyo metropolitan area including Tower Records Shibuya, Shinjuku, and Ikebukuro outlets. NaNa's image as a "world band" has been reinforced by their work with Hideki Nakajima, the art director that put together their "cool" album artwork and music video. NaNa's "Song 5" included in the Red maxi single was selected as the weekly recommendation song on J-Wave's Claris Future Trax in the second week of March. On March 22, the same song appeared on J-Wave's Tokio Hot 100 countdown at #80 an exceptional ranking for an Indies release.

Based on positive radio response NaNa signed a major label contract with For Life Records / Gut label and started working on their major debut that was released in October 1998. NaNa went to UK, and worked with the world famous mix engineer Clive Goddard who is well known for his work with Paul McCartney, Jamiroquai, Moby, Pulp, Sinead O'Connor, INXS and Madonna.

In October 1998, the major debut second EP "Super Star" is released. This EP was masterd by Miles Showell Metropolis Mastering London UK.

The third EP "Snake Girl" is released in January 1999. The first album "VOID" is released in February 1999. NaNa performed first live as NaNa In September 1999. They acted as a curtain-raiser of "SUEDE" Japan Live at Akasaka BRITZ and played 6 songs including new songs. And they also acted as a curtain-raiser of "Keziah Jones" Japan Live, and besides they took part in a "Aloha Festeval" presented Aloha productions in November the same year.

On Aug 2000 NaNa contracted with Warner Music Japan. The fourth EP "S" is released in January 2001. This EP was masterd by Howie Weinberg Masterdisk, NYC. they focused on recording for the new album and Live, Event. On June 26, 2002, their second album "Imaginary man" was released by "Dream Machine" (East West / Waner Music Japan). As with previous album "VOID", the process from mixdown to mastering of the new album has taken place in TOKYO, LONDON and NEW YORK, and the mixdown by Clive Goddard, a London engineer, the mastering by Ted Jensen, a New York engineer of Sterling Sound. The music like visualizing image by mature sounds and songs have an excellent reputation beyond the last album. NaNa extended the market worldwide since 2006, started distribution of "VOID", "Imaginary Man" on iTunes. Their music got major repercussions all over the world via internet. Even before both of their record label Gut, Warner Music Japan contracted with iTunes, NaNa's albums had started being distributed to the world. It was exceptional event. Starting in 2007, NaNa's tracks have gradually received air-play primarily in the UK and the US. As of 2010, their music came to be listened to all over the world via local and Satellite Radio, and BBC regardless of the type of Radio station.

In 2011, NaNa was ranked on the Billboard Magazine's (USA) charts. Spent 13 weeks from Feb 2011 on the Billboard Uncharted, climbed to #12 place. And also they ranked in the chart on the Billbord Brasil chart on April. On Dec.2011, ranked #41 place on the Billboard's The Best of 2011 (Year-End Chart, USA) as well.

NaNa has released a long-awaited their fifth EP "RIDE" in 2012. The numbers are produced in response to being ranked on the Billboard. The single is filled with NaNa's new world view. You can listen to their brand-new "Visional Rock" that is Electronica, Ambient and Indie Rock-influenced as well as their traditional style.

In 2013, the single track 'Unbelievable World' that is a sequel to 'RIDE' was released by Warner Music Japan. The title tune follows in the previous single and is a further evolution of electronica track. In contrast, the B-side track 'Tokyo, Slow Down' showed oriental and pop finish. The both tracks have further their perfection and their new worldview. The single has been released on iTunes and further download shop in 111 countries by Warner Music Japan on 13 February 2013.

In March of that year, their second album "Imaginary man" that was released in 2002 is just set for re-release on iTunes of each different country including Japan from Warner music Japan in Mar 2013. In addition to their original twelve tracks, "The Plain Jane" that has been "out-track" in 2002 is included in that album as a bonus track. In June of that year, Shigeo Tamaru was released a single track "MONO" as his Solo from their Private Label "One Dot Records". He successively released his four new singles "On the Road", "Orange Day", "Perhaps It's Better", "Burning Man" on 2015. Those singles were highly praised on JazzCorner.com and Nodepression which are one of the largest Jazz portal site. After October of that year began, NaNa's track "Tokyo, Slow Down" from the single "Unbelievable World" that was released by Warner Music Japan in 2013, it was introduced in a popular public radio program in the US, and has received strong air-play. The track has been broadcasted on FM stations in a wide range from NY to Alaska. In March 2016, their new EP "Remember Me" was released by Warner Music Japan. It also contains the title tune's Remix, Guitar version, takes you to further the new world of NaNa.

NaNa www.song5.com