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Futari (Japanese for “two people”) is pianist Satoko Fujii, well known for her prolific output and international collaborations, and vibraphonist Taiko Saito (also Japanese, but based in Germany), who, though a generation younger, shares many of Fujii’s aesthetic sensibilities. Their 15-year friendship finally blossomed into Beyond, recorded in Japan after the third gig of their first tour. As such it has a quality of fresh discovery—people figuring out how to play together. Although Fujii can be extremely assertive, here even in her most ecstatic moments— as when she crowds the bass register with dense twining lines and chords—she never overpowers Saito, whose light shimmering tones in the upper register maintain a strong presence. The pieces, mostly Fujii’s, include honed melodies (“Ame No Ato”, “Mobius Strip”), short motives with improvised elaboration, through-composed pieces and textural sketches, a nice balance of freedom and control.