

MOTOKI HIRAI



Pianist PROFILE

Widely acclaimed as one of the most imaginative pianists of his generation, Motoki Hirai appears regularly in the music capitals of Far East, America and Europe as a soloist and recitalist. In the UK he has performed in St. George's, Bristol, and London venues including the Wigmore Hall and the South Bank Centre. Highlights of the 2009/10 season and beyond include piano concertos with Czech Virtuosi in Prague and Bruno, as well as concert tours across Europe and Japan.

Motoki is equally at home with chamber music and lieder. As a composer, Motoki has been commissioned to write new works which have premiered in prestigious venues such as the Tokyo Opera City, NHK Hall, Wigmore Hall and the Chelsea Flower Show 2008. His music has also been used in films such as 'Voice' (2004) and 'The Emperor's Tram Girls' (2005). As part of 2005 EU-Japan Year of People-to-People Exchanges, Motoki gave a highly successful solo recital on Europe Day at St. John's, Smith Square in London, premiering of his own works alongside standard repertoire, which was repeated in Tokyo, supported by European Union.

Born into a highly gifted musical family, Motoki studied piano and composition with his grandfather, the eminent composer Kozaburo Hirai, and violin with his grandmother. Since his first professional appearance at the age of 13 playing his own piano compositions to great critical acclaim, he has been highly active in both performance and composition. After reading philosophy and

aesthetics at Keio University in Tokyo, Motoki came to London in 1996 to study at the Royal Academy of Music.

Over the years, Motoki Hirai has given freely of his time to perform for the promotion of world peace and for people in need worldwide in association with international organizations such as the British Red Cross, UNICEF and UNESCO. As an artistic emissary of the Japanese government, Motoki has visited countries such as Sri Lanka, Portugal, Malaysia and Denmark since 1994. He has broadcast internationally on radio and television (Classic FM, BBC and ITV) and has made a number of recordings on CD. His most recent release is the new re-mastering of the works for solo piano 'MOTOKI HIRAI Piano Works' (2009) supported by Steinway & Sons, which received much critical acclaim.

www.motoki-hirai.com

REVIEWS

"a most brilliant and sensitive musical talent"

The Guardian

"consistent musicality ... Being a composer himself has endowed the performer a special insight into the works of others, enabling him to capture the essential character of each composition."

Sunday Times