

Greeting from Chairperson of Jury

It is a great honor and privilege to have been appointed President of the Jury for the 13th Hamamatsu International Piano Competition.

This honor is not only due to the competition's distinguished reputation, which has been established since its inception in 1991, but also because of the lasting impression it left on me when I served as a juror in 2024. I fondly recall the warm hospitality, meaningful encounters and impeccable organization — hallmarks of the finest Japanese tradition — that were extended to both candidates and jury members.



This competition is a true springboard for exceptional young pianists from around the world. It is no coincidence that the competition takes place in Hamamatsu, a city that lives and breathes music year-round. Renowned for its deep musical heritage, Hamamatsu is also the birthplace of world-renowned Japanese piano manufacturers.

The twenty remarkable days in November, followed by an ever-growing Japanese and international audience, celebrate musical artistry and stand as a testament to the city's enduring cultural commitment.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering support of the City of Hamamatsu and the generosity of the volunteers. To all of them, I extend my deepest gratitude and warmest wishes for a resounding success.

It is with pride and great joy that I join them for this next edition of the competition, which will certainly lead to the discovery of extraordinary new voices in the great tradition of music.

Momo Kodama

Biography

MOMO KODAMA, piano

Praised for her “impeccable technique and facility for crystalline sounds” (American Record Guide), “her natural ease and keen sense for drama” (BBC Music Magazine), “deliciously pearly touch” (Classical Music) and “crisp, pointed and sensuous playing” (San Francisco Chronicle) Momo Kodama has built up an impressive career with performances with world-renowned orchestras such as the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, Boston Symphony Orchestra, Bayerisches Staatsorchester, NHK Symphony Orchestra, NDR Elbphilharmonie Orchestra, Orchestre National de France, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte-Carlo, Orchestre de Chambre de Paris and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, under the baton of Seiji Ozawa, Eliahu Inbal, Charles Dutoit, Kent Nagano, Roger Norrington, Lawrence Foster and André Previn. She has appeared at the Vienna Musikverein, Berlin Philharmonie, Berlin Konzerthaus, Suntory Hall Tokyo, Philharmonie de Paris, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, Muziekgebouw aan 't IJ in Amsterdam and the Wigmore Hall in London.

She is a regular guest at festivals including Marlboro, Verbier, La Roque d'Anthéron, Festival Chopin, Festival d'Automne, Festival Saint-Denis, Enesco Festival, Tivoli Festival, Settembre Musica, Schleswig-Holstein, Miyazaki and Matsumoto (Seiji Ozawa).

Momo Kodama enjoys making chamber music with partners including Christian Tetzlaff, Renaud Capuçon, Augustin Dumay, Gautier Capuçon, Steven Isserlis and Jörg Widmann. She also devised and performed a programme for the 100th anniversary of Debussy's death, with actor Pascal Rénéric and bariton Josep-Ramon Olivé at La Bellevilloise in Paris with further repeats in France and China.

Her repertoire ranges from the classical and romantic periods to contemporary works. Composers such as Toshio Hosokawa, Jörg Widmann and Christian Mason have written especially for her. Momo Kodama is regarded as a highly distinguished interpreter of Olivier Messiaen's oeuvre (among which the *Turangalîla-Symphonie*, the *Vingt Regards sur l'enfant-Jésus*, the *Catalogue d'Oiseaux*), and premiered his *Fantaisie for Violin and Piano* with Isabelle Faust in 2006.

Her latest recording for ECM, released in spring 2021, features concertos by Mozart and Toshio Hosokawa, with the Mito Chamber Orchestra conducted by Seiji Ozawa. Prior to this, her CD “La vallée des cloches” and “Point and Line – Hosokawa/Debussy Etudes” also released by ECM,

received outstanding reviews from the New York Times, BBC Music Magazine (recording of the month), Classica (“Choc”), Neue Zürcher Zeitung, In addition, Momo Kodama has recorded two CD’s for Pentatone together with her pianist sister Mari with works by Tchaikovsky and Martinů, as well as four CD’s for Triton with works by Chopin, Debussy and Messiaen. Just released a recording for Pentatone with Double and Triple Pianos Concertos by Mozart and Poulenc with Mari Kodama and Karin Kei Nagano, with the Orchestre de la Suisse Romande conducted by Kent Nagano.

Momo Kodama is Professor at the Hochschule für Musik Karlsruhe.

Born in Osaka in Japan, Momo Kodama spent her early years in Europe: educated at a German school, she attended the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris. She continued her studies under Murray Perahia, András Schiff, Vera Gornostaeva and Tatiana Nikolayeva. In 1991, she became the youngest laureate of the ARD International Music Competition in Munich.

Secretariat of Hamamatsu International Piano Competition

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