

YOKO NISHII (pianist) – biography

YOKO NISHII was born in Ise, Japan. She began to play the piano at the age of 4. After graduating from Keio University in Tokyo for studies of French literature in 1998, she entered the “Ino Mirković” Music Academy situated in Lovran, Croatia with full scholarship for 2 years. She graduated from the 4-year academic program in only 2 years with excellent grades under Prof. Evgeny Zarfants in 2000. In July 2001, she earned “Master of Music Art” degree at the same academy, and from 2001 to 2003 she worked as assistant in the piano class of Prof. Zarfants. Also she often worked as accompanist in “Flute Master Class” held in the same academy by Prof. Pierre-Yves Artaud from Paris. From 2005 to 2007 she did advanced study at the Zagreb Music Academy as the fellowship under the Japanese Government Overseas Program for Artists. She has won numerous international competitions and awards. She worked as a part-time lecturer at Aichi University of the Arts in Japan from 2014 to 2019. Until now she studied with Prof. Mitsuko Tomio, Prof. Naofumi Kaneshige, Prof. Kyoko Ogawa, Prof. Hitoshi Kobayashi and Prof. Zarfants.

She has given numerous solo recitals in Japan, Croatia, Italy, Hungary, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro. In Croatia alone she has given over 50 solo recitals in 25 cities so far. She has also performed with the Zagreb Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Leonid Nikolaev in Zagreb and Opatija, Croatia, and the Cuban National Symphonic Orchestra conducted by Enrique Perez Mesa in Havana, Cuba. In December 2018 she gave a concert co-organized by the Japanese Embassy in Croatia and Croatian Radio Television (HRT) at the HRT studio Bajsić in Zagreb, Croatia on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Croatia, which was broadcast live by HRT.

She is extensively involved in research and dissemination of Croatian composers and music, as well as those from other neighboring countries. In February 2015 she has published the first CD in the world which includes the complete solo piano works of Croatian female composer Dora Pejačević on her 130th birth anniversary from Japanese CD label “Herb Classics”.

In July 2020 she has released her second CD album “Yoko Nishii plays Sergei Rachmaninov”.

More information can be found at: <https://www.yokonishii.com/>

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