

Tickets\*: £25, £22, £18, £12

\*All proceeds from this concert will go to the Japan Society Tohoku Earthquake Relief Fund, for the rebuilding of lives and livelihoods through local projects in the most affected areas.

**How to Book**

**In person:**

7 days a week; 10am~8:30pm  
Days without an evening concert 10am~5pm  
No advance booking in the half hour prior to a concert.

**Telephone: 020 7935 2141**

7 days a week; 10am~8:30pm  
Days without an evening concert 10am~5pm  
There is a £2.00 administration fee for all telephone bookings, which includes the return of your tickets by post if time permits.

**Online: [www.wigmore-hall.org.uk](http://www.wigmore-hall.org.uk)**

7 days a week; 24 hours a day  
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**Facilities for Disabled People:**

Please contact House Management, tel 020 7258 8210 for full details or email [housemanagers@wigmore-hall.org.uk](mailto:housemanagers@wigmore-hall.org.uk)



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**Supported by:** Embassy of Japan in the UK, Steinway & Sons, and Wigmore Hall



**Sponsored by:** ANA, Japan Centre, JR Central, Matsuri Restaurant, OCS Europe, TallWall Media, and Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation



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**Graphic Design:** Ryoji Karube

# Motoki Hirai PIANO

In Aid of the Japan Earthquake and Tsunami

Sat. 29th October 2011 – 3:00 pm



“a most brilliant and sensitive musical talent both as pianist and composer”

–The Guardian

“sheer delight! ... spellbinding!”

“His emotional range, versatility and imagination is simply outstanding”

–Ongaku no Tomo

“special insight into the works of others”

–Sunday Times



**Wigmore Hall**

36 Wigmore Street, London W1U 2BP

Director: John Gilhooly

The Wigmore Hall Trust

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[www.wigmore-hall.org.uk](http://www.wigmore-hall.org.uk)

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**Box Office:** 020 7935 2141

**Book Online:** [www.wigmore-hall.org.uk](http://www.wigmore-hall.org.uk)

## PROGRAMME

Motoki HIRAI	New Work (world première)
MOZART	Piano Sonata in Bb K570
SCHUMANN	Fantasiestücke Op.12 ( <i>excerpts</i> )
ALBENIZ	Rumores de la Caleta (Malagueña) from <i>Recuerdos de vioje</i>
LISZT	Hungarian Rhapsody No.5 in E minor S244
SCHUBERT / LISZT	Litany S562 No.1
CHOPIN / LISZT	The Wish S480 No.1
CHOPIN	Waltz in C# minor Op.64 No.2
	Prelude in Db Op.28 No.15 'Raindrop'
Motoki HIRAI	Scenes from a Native Land (2005)

**Acclaimed worldwide for his imagination and sensitivity, composer-pianist Motoki Hirai returns to Wigmore Hall, following his successful début recitals at Carnegie Hall (NY) and Cadogan Hall (London). Since the Earthquake and Tsunami devastated Japan in March 2011, Motoki has been giving a series of charity concerts for fundraising across the UK including London, Bristol, Somerset, Lincoln and Edinburgh as well as in Japan. His appealing programme will include a world première of his own work, alongside masterpieces from the standard repertoire.**

Motoki Hirai has appeared regularly in the music capitals of the Far East, America and Europe as well as in London's prestigious venues including Wigmore Hall, Cadogan Hall, St. John's, Smith Square and the South Bank Centre. In March 2011, Motoki gave a hugely successful recital in Carnegie Hall in New York. Highlights of the 2011/2012 season and beyond include concerto performances with Czech Virtuosi, chamber music with Vilnius String Quartet, solo recitals in venues and festivals including Wigmore Hall (London), Carnegie Hall (NY), National Cherry Blossom

Festival (Washington D.C.), Castle Festival (Bratislava) and La Folle Journée (Tokyo) as well as concert tours across Europe and Japan.

As a composer, Motoki has been commissioned to write new works for international artists in various fields which were performed and premièred in venues such as Carnegie Hall (NY), Wigmore Hall, South Bank Centre, Cadogan Hall, Unicorn Theatre, Chelsea Flower Show, Chelsea Festival, Dulwich Festival (London), St. George's (Bristol), Smetana Hall



(Prague), Summer of Cultural Festival (Bratislava), Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris (Paris), Auditori Pau Casals (Barcelona), Tokyo Opera City and NHK Hall (Tokyo). In celebration of Chopin's bicentenary in 2010, Motoki Hirai published his piano composition 'Hommage à Chopin' (both solo and duet versions), through the publisher 'Chopin Corp.' (Tokyo). His music has also been used in films such as 'Voice' (2004) and 'The Emperor's Tram Girls' (2005).

Born in Tokyo into a highly gifted musical family, Motoki studied piano, violin and composition with his grandfather, the eminent composer Kozaburo Y. Hirai and chamber music with his father, the celebrated cellist Takeichiro Hirai, whom Pablo Casals designated as his successor. After reading philosophy and aesthetics at Keio University in Tokyo, Motoki came to London in 1996 to study at the Royal Academy of Music, and later at City University.

Over the years, Motoki Hirai has performed for the promotion of world peace and for people in need worldwide in association with organizations such as

the Red Cross, Motor Neurone Disease Association, UNICEF and UNESCO. In 2010 Motoki was invited to Lithuania to give a charity concert, commemorating Sempo (Chiune) Sugihara who saved the lives of 6000 Jews during World War II. As an artistic emissary of the Japanese government, Motoki has visited France, Spain, Portugal, Denmark, Romania, Sri Lanka and Malaysia amongst others since 1994. He has been honoured with a number of awards, including the Sir Jack and Lady Lyons Performance Award.

He has also been involved in fascinating educational programmes to promote Japanese art and culture across the world, such as the "Picture Books – Reading, Images and Music" project (2007- ) as artistic director as well as composer. Motoki has broadcast internationally on radio and television (Classic FM, BBC, ITV and NHK) and has made a number of recordings on CD. His most recent release is of works for solo piano 'Motoki Hirai Piano Works' (2006/2010), supported by Steinway & Sons, which has received much critical acclaim.

[www.motoki-hirai.com](http://www.motoki-hirai.com)