



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.

## Motoki Hirai, piano – Charity Concert in Aid of Japan Earthquake

**Special Guest: John Pearce**, violin

London-based Japanese pianist Motoki Hirai is performing a series of charity concerts to support Japan in light of the recent disaster. He is touring across the UK during April and May. He will be playing at Central Saint Giles on 11<sup>th</sup> April, exactly one month after the earthquake, joined by prominent British violinist, John Pearce. The programme will include works by **Mozart, Schubert, Chopin, Liszt, Albeniz, Kreisler and Motoki Hirai**.

Venue: **Ground Floor Foyer  
Central Saint Giles  
1 St Giles High Street  
WC2H 8AG**

Date: **Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> April  
Doors open at 18:45  
Performance: 19:15 - 20:30**

Free drinks will be served before and after the concert

Admission Fee\*: **£15 (Concessions: £5)**

**\* Your additional donation (for which there will be a collection box in the concert hall) would be greatly appreciated.**

All those interested in attending please send a confirmation email with the names of all guests to [mec@mecuk.co.uk](mailto:mec@mecuk.co.uk)

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“Consistent  
musicality”

– *The Sunday Times*

## Motoki Hirai

Pianist and Composer

Widely acclaimed as one of the most imaginative and sensitive pianists of his generation, Motoki Hirai has appeared in the music capitals of Far East, America and Europe, performing regularly in London’s prestigious venues including the Wigmore Hall, St. John’s, Smith Square and the South Bank Centre. In March 2011, Motoki gave a hugely successful sold-out recital in Carnegie Hall in New York. During recent seasons, Motoki has performed in Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, France, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Romania, Spain, USA and his native Japan. Highlights of the 2010/2011 season and beyond include concerto performances with orchestras such as Czech Virtuosi, solo recitals in venues including Cadogan Hall (London) and Carnegie Hall (NY), 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, Chelsea Flower Show, Chelsea Festival 2008, Dulwich Festival 2010 (London), St. George’s (Bristol), Smetana Hall (Prague), Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris (Paris), Auditori Pau Casals (Barcelona), Tokyo Opera City and NHK Hall (Tokyo). His music has also been used in films such as ‘Voice’ (2004) and ‘The Emperor’s Tram Girls’ (2005). In celebration of Chopin’s bicentennial in 2010, Motoki Hirai published his piano composition ‘Hommage à Chopin’ (both solo and duet versions), through the publisher ‘Chopin Corp.’ (Tokyo).

Born in Tokyo into a highly gifted musical family, Motoki studied piano and composition with his grandfather, the eminent composer Kozaburo Y. Hirai, and violin with his grandmother.

After reading philosophy at Keio University in Tokyo, Motoki came to London in 1996 to study at the Royal Academy of Music, and later at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, and City University. Since 1991, Motoki has collaborated with artists including Michael Cox, Kalman Berkes, Barry Craft, John Pearce and his father, the celebrated cellist Takeichiro Hirai, whom Pablo Casals designated as his successor.

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 Polish Jews during the Second World War.

As an artistic emissary of the Japanese government, Motoki has visited France, Spain, Portugal, Denmark, UK, Romania, Sri Lanka and Malaysia amongst others since 1994. He has also been involved in fascinating educational programmes to promote Japanese art and culture across the world, such as the “Picture Books – Storytelling, Images and Music” project (2007) as artistic director as well as composer. He has been honoured with a number of awards, including the Sir Jack and Lady Lyons Performance Award.

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 received much critical acclaim.

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

“A most brilliant  
and sensitive  
musical talent”

– *The Guardian*