

"a most brilliant and sensitive musical talent" – The Guardian

# Motoki Hirai Piano Recital

In Aid of the Japan Society Tohoku Earthquake Relief Fund



Wednesday, 25th May 2011 – 7:30 pm at Cadogan Hall

J.S.Bach: French Suite No.2 in C minor, BWV813

Schumann: Arabeske in C, Op.18

Piano Sonata No.2 in G minor, Op.22

Motoki Hirai: Valse Pathétique (1993)

Three Recollections (UK première)

Hommage à Chopin (1999)

Chopin: Polonaise in C sharp minor, Op.26-1

Mazurka in A minor, Op.67-4

Nocturne in C sharp minor, Op.Posthumous

Scherzo No.3 in C sharp minor, Op.39



**Acclaimed worldwide for his imagination and sensitivity, Japanese pianist Motoki Hirai returns to London for his Cadogan Hall début, following his successful sold-out recital début at Carnegie Hall (NY) in March 2011.**

Motoki Hirai has appeared regularly in the music capitals of the Far East, America and Europe, as well as London's prestigious venues including the Wigmore Hall, St. John's, Smith Square and the South Bank Centre. In the 2011/2012 season and beyond, Motoki will be giving concerto performances with orchestras such as Czech Virtuosi, as well as solo recital tours across Europe and his native Japan.

As a composer, Motoki has been commissioned to write new works for 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).

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

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

Motoki Hirai - Other Charity Concerts in Aid of Japan Earthquake

7 April, 2011 (Thu) The National Liberal Club (London, UK)

11 April, 2011 (Mon) Central Saint Giles (London, UK)

3 May, 2011 (Tue) St Stephen's (Bristol, UK)

4 May, 2011 (Wed) Sidcot School (Somerset, UK)

7 May, 2011 (Sat) Lincoln Cathedral (Lincolnshire, UK)

Tickets\*: £25, £22, £18, £12

(Concessions: £10)

Box Office: 020.7730.4500

Book Online: [www.cadoganhall.com](http://www.cadoganhall.com)

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\*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.

In Association with The Japan Society

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