

31st ANNIVERSARY SEASON

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PRODUCTIONS

1207th CONCERT WORLDWIDE | 974th IN NEW YORK | 379th IN WEILL RECITAL HALL
PETER TIBORIS, GENERAL & ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Motoki Hirai

Motoki Hirai, Piano

J.S. BACH (arr. M. Hirai): Organ Concerto in D minor, BWV 596 after Vivaldi (U.S. première)

TCHAIKOVSKY: Dumka ("Scene in a Village"), Op. 59

M. HIRAI: Grace and Hope - Dedicated to the victims and survivors of the earthquake and tsunami (2011) (U.S. première)

: Scenes from a Native Land (2005) (U.S. première)

: Homage to Grieg (1987/2007) (U.S. première)

: Improvisation on EDvArD GriEG (World première)

GRIEG: Selections from Lyric Pieces, Peer Gynt Suite, and others

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2014
at 8 PM**

WEILL RECITAL HALL AT CARNEGIE HALL

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Programs and artists are subject to change without notice.



www.midamerica-music.com

Motoki Hirai, Piano

"a most brilliant and sensitive musical talent"

—The Guardian

Widely acclaimed as one of the most imaginative and sensitive pianists of his generation, Motoki Hirai has appeared in the music capitals of the Far East, America, and Europe, performing regularly in London's prestigious venues including the Wigmore Hall, Cadogan Hall, St. John's, Smith Square, and the South Bank Centre.

In March 2011, Motoki gave a hugely successful recital in Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. Motoki has performed in Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Holland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Oman, Palestine, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, and Tanzania, among others. Since 1991 Motoki has collaborated with artists including Czech Virtuosi, Vilnius String Quartet, Michael Cox, Kalman Berkes, Barry Craft, John Pearce, and his father, the celebrated cellist Takeichiro Hirai, whom Pablo Casals once designated as his successor.

As a composer, Motoki's works have been performed and premièred in venues such as Carnegie Hall (NY); National Cherry Blossom Festival (Washington, D.C.); Wigmore Hall, South Bank Center, Unicorn Theatre, Chelsea Flower Show (London); Smetana Hall (Prague); Cultural Summer Festival (Bratislava); Maison de la culture du Japon à Paris (Paris); Auditori Pau Casals (Barcelona); Cameri Theatre of Tel Aviv, Auditorium in Haifa Museum of Art (Israel); as well as La Folle Journée, Tokyo Opera City and NHK Hall (Tokyo). In 2007, to commemorate the centennial of Grieg's death, Motoki Hirai premièred his own piano work, "Hommage à Grieg," in Wigmore Hall (London) and Tsuda Hall (Tokyo), among others. The work was critically acclaimed internationally including Norway's leading newspaper, Aftenposten. His music has also been used in films such as "Voice" (2004) and "The Emperor's Tram Girls" (2005).

Born in Tokyo in 1973 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. Since his first professional appearance at the age of 13 playing his own piano works to great critical acclaim, he has been highly active in both performance and composition. After reading philosophy and aesthetics at Keio University in Tokyo, Motoki went to London in 1996 to study at the Royal Academy of Music.

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, Japan Society, Royal Marsden Cancer Charity, UNICEF and UNESCO. In 2010 Motoki was invited to Lithuania to give a charity concert, commemorating Sempo (Chiune) Sugihara who saved the lives of over 6000 Polish Jews during World War II.

Since the Earthquake and Tsunami devastated Japan on 11 March 2011 (which, by a sad coincidence, was his birthday), Motoki has been giving a series of charity concerts for fundraising, supported by Steinway & Sons, across the U.K. and Europe and the most affected areas in Japan, raising over \$120,000. Motoki has broadcast internationally on radio and television (Classic FM, BBC, and NHK) and has made a number of recordings on CD.

www.motoki-hirai.com