





PRESENTS

## MOTOKI HIRAI

2 / An Exclusive Concert AUG followed by a cocktail Saturday

Acclaimed worldwide for his imagination and sensitivity, Motoki Hirai has appeared in over 100 countries as a concert-pianist, composer, artistic director, educator and goodwill ambassador, regularly giving solo recitals in prestigious venues including Carnegie Hall (New York), Wigmore Hall (London), Royal Concertgebouw (Amsterdam) and Wiener Konzerthaus (Vienna). During the 2022-23 season Motoki will be touring throughout the UK, France, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Norway, Mauritius and his native Japan.

Born in Tokyo in 1973 into a highly gifted musical family, Motoki studied piano with his mother; violin with his grandmother; and composition with his grandfather Kozaburo Yasuki Hirai, the eminent composer. After reading philosophy and aesthetics at Keio University in Tokyo, he went to London in 1996 to study at Royal Academy of Music. Since 1991, Motoki has collaborated with internationally renowned artists and orchestras including Czech Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra, English National Ballet, Vilnius String Quartet, Michael Cox, Kalman Berkes, Doudou N'Diaye Rose and his cellist father, Takeichiro Hirai (a celebrated disciple of Pablo Casals).

As an artistic emissary of the Japanese government, Motoki has visited France, Spain, Portugal, Denmark, Lithuania, UK, Romania, Oman, Senegal, Tanzania, South Africa, Sri Lanka and Malaysia amongst others since 1994. Over the years, Motoki Hirai has performed for the promotion of world peace and for children and people in need worldwide in association with organizations such as the Red Cross, Royal Marsden Cancer Charity, Tohoku Earthquake Fukushima Orphans Fund, UNESCO and UNICEF. In 2019 Motoki was appointed both Cultural Ambassador (Yume-Taishi) of Hirono Town in Fukushima (Japan) and Goodwill Ambassador of Reviving Old Imari (porcelain) Project at Loosdorf Castle (Austria).

Motoki has broadcast internationally on radio and television (Classic FM, BBC, NHK, etc.) and has made a number of recordings on CD/DVD. Most recently he collaborated with a current England (former Japan) rugby head coach Eddie Jones in a documentary film 'A Decade of Recovery in Fukushima' (2021). Motoki has been a Steinway Artist since 2010.