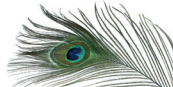


LISA PEACOCK CONCERT MANAGEMENT LTD

presents



MOTOKI HIRAI

50th Birthday Recital – A Celebration in Music

UK-Japan Friendship in aid of
British Heart Foundation and Fukushima



British Heart
Foundation



ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE

St John's Smith Square,
London SW1P 3HA

Sat. 11 March 2023 at 7pm

St John's Smith Square Charitable Trust. Registered Charity No. 1045390. Registered in England. Company No. 3028678.

Thomas Arne (1710-1778)

Sonata No.6 in G minor

I: Affettuoso

II: Presto

Wolfgang Amadeus

Mozart (1756-1791)

Sonata No.10 in C, K.330/300h

I: Allegro moderato

II: Andante cantabile

III: Allegretto

[World Première]

Motoki Hirai (1973-)

Elegy in memory of Queen Elizabeth II (1926-2022)

Motoki Hirai

Scenes from a Native Land (2005)

– Interval (20 mins) –

Isaac Albéniz (1860-1909)

Córdoba, Op.232, No.4 (from Cantos de España)

Enrique Granados (1867-1916)

Andaluza (No.5 from 12 Danzas Españolas)

Moritz Moszkowski (1854-1925)

Guitarre, Op.45, No.2

Kozaburo Hirai (1910-2002)

Fantasy on 'Sakura-Sakura' (1971)

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Two Songs from Schwanengesang D957

No.12: Am Meer (*transcribed by Motoki Hirai*)

No.4: Ständchen (*transcribed by Franz Liszt*)

Motoki Hirai

Polka 'La Cinquantaine' (1986)

Motoki Hirai

Grace and Hope (2011)

– Dedicated to the victims and survivors of the
3/11 Tsunami and Earthquake

Motoki Hirai

Recollection No.3 (1991)

In accordance with the requirements of Westminster City Council persons shall not be permitted to sit or stand in any gangway. Photography is permitted in the concert hall and during the concert, but please refrain from taking photographs whilst the performer is playing.

Smoking is not permitted anywhere in St. John's. Please ensure that all digital devices are switched off.

Bottled water and drinks purchased in our Footstool Café-bar are permitted in the auditorium
– please ask at the bar when ordering for a reusable cup.

Acclaimed worldwide for his imagination and sensitivity, Motoki Hirai has appeared in over 100 countries as concert-pianist, music director and artistic emissary, regularly giving solo recitals in prestigious venues including Carnegie Hall (New York), Royal Concertgebouw (Amsterdam), Konzerthaus (Vienna), Barbican, Cadogan Hall and Wigmore Hall (London).

Motoki has broadcast internationally on radio and television (Classic FM, BBC, ITV, NHK, etc.) and collaborated with a former England and Japan rugby head coach Eddie Jones in a documentary 'A Decade of Recovery in Fukushima' (2021).

As a composer, Motoki's works have been performed in venues such as Carnegie Hall (NY); Southbank Centre, Wigmore Hall, St. John's Smith Square, Chelsea Flower Show (London), Smetana Hall (Prague); Maison de la culture du Japon (Paris); Expo Milano (Milan); Auditori Pau Casals (Barcelona); Cameri Theatre (Tel Aviv); Théâtre National Daniel Sorano (Dakar); Hugo Lambrechts Auditorium (Cape Town); as well as La Folle Journée, Tokyo Opera City, and NHK Hall (Japan).

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

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 British Red Cross, Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation, Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity, Japan Society, Motor Neurone Disease Association, Royal Marsden Cancer Charity, Tohoku Earthquake Fukushima Orphans Fund, UNESCO and UNICEF. Since the Earthquake and Tsunami devastated Tohoku, Japan on 11 March 2011 (which, by a sad coincidence, was his birthday), Motoki has organized over 50 charity concerts across UK, Europe, US as well as the most affected areas in Japan.

As an artistic emissary of the Japanese government, Motoki has visited numerous countries across the globe since 1994. He is an Ambassador (Yume-Taishi) of Hirono Town in Fukushima and Goodwill Ambassador of Reviving Old Imari (porcelain) Project at Loosdorf Castle in Austria.

www.motoki-hirai.com



a most brilliant and sensitive musical talent
... his musicianship is incomparable

THE GUARDIAN

consistent musicality ... Being a composer himself
has endowed the performer [Motoki Hirai] with a
special insight into the works of others, enabling him
to capture the essential character of each composition.

SUNDAY TIMES

His interpretation was refined and left a strong
impression on the audience. It was as though the
doors to the most sublime music of our time were
being opened note by note right before our eyes.

EL MUNDO

... superbly performed, technically perfect
and infused with keen intelligence

MUSICAL OPINION

Mr. Hirai's unhurried approach and ample breathing
between phrases brought to mind a great singer or string player
... warm lyricism and a uniquely improvisatory feeling

NEW YORK CONCERT REVIEW

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In Association with:



Fukushima Prefectural
Association in the UK



Special thanks to: JA, Japan Society, JCCI UK, JR-Central, Nippon Club, Zen Catering

In support of:

British Heart Foundation and Hirono Town in Fukushima

*Proceeds from this concert will be donated to the British Heart Foundation and educational projects 'Children's Future Fund in Hirono Town' (Hirono-machi Kodomo Mirai Kikin) in Fukushima. Motoki Hirai has worked with the British Heart Foundation through his music to improve the emotional well-being of children and adults, as he himself has had a heart condition for years. Your donation will help fund research into treatments and potential cures that could save your life and that of your family.

In aid of the



British Heart
Foundation



To donate to



the British Heart
Foundation