

Akiko Suwanai



“No melody, tone or emotion was beyond her as she played impeccably, dazzling the audience with bowing pyrotechnics that left no one in doubt of her sumptuous skills.”

– *Star Online*, March 2008

The youngest ever winner of the International Tchaikovsky Competition, Akiko Suwanai enjoys a prestigious international career performing in concert and recital in the major cities of Europe, the Americas and Asia, and an exclusive recording contract with Universal Music.

Upcoming highlights include tours with the London Symphony Orchestra under Valeriy Gergiev, Royal Stockholm Philharmonic Orchestra under Sakari Oramo, and the Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse

under Tugan Sokhiev. She will also perform with the Orchestre National de Belgique, Orquesta Nacional de España, Residentie Orkest, Orchestre Philharmonique de Monte Carlo and Bamberger Symphoniker amongst others. Akiko Suwanai regularly tours with Orchestre de Paris and Christoph Eschenbach, the NDR Sinfonieorchester with Christoph von Dohnányi, the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen and Paavo Järvi, and with the Philharmonia Orchestra under Vladimir Ashkenazy.

In spring 2009 Akiko Suwanai was invited to open the Shanghai International Music Festival as the first Japanese violinist, an important event broadcast on national television. She recently gave the world premiere of Peter Eötvös's composition *Seven* at the Lucerne Festival with the Lucerne Festival Academy Orchestra under the baton of Pierre Boulez. Further performances with Peter Eötvös himself conducting included concerts in Gothenburg, Budapest, Berlin, Tokyo and at the 2008 BBC Proms. Other collaborations with renowned conductors include Lorin Maazel, Zubin Mehta, Seiji Ozawa and Wolfgang Sawallisch.

Akiko Suwanai's extensive discography with Universal Music has garnered much critical acclaim. Her releases to date include CDs with the Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields under Neville Marriner, the Philharmonia Orchestra under Charles Dutoit, a Slavonic album with the Budapest Festival Orchestra under Iván Fischer, a CD of Bach Concertos with the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, as well as a recital disc of Beethoven Sonatas with Nicholas Angelich.

Akiko Suwanai has won numerous prizes and awards such as the International Paganini Competition in Italy, the International Japan Competition and the Queen Elisabeth International Competition in Belgium. She studied at the Toho Gakuen School of Music with Toshiya Eto, at Columbia University and the Juilliard School of Music with Dorothy DeLay and Cho-Liang Lin, and also at the Hochschule der Künste in Berlin with Uwe-Martin Haiberg. She now lives in Paris.

Akiko Suwanai performs on the Antonio Stradivarius 1714 violin 'Dolphin', one of the most famous violins known today and previously owned by the celebrated violinist Jascha Heifetz. This is kindly loaned by the Nippon Music Foundation.

2009/10 season. Please contact HarrisonParrott if you wish to edit this biography.