Sayaka Shoji

Violin

Japanese violinist, Sayaka Shoji has become internationally recognised for her musicianship, brilliant technique and enduring strength on the concert platform. She has developed an extensive repertoire including masterworks by Prokofiev, Tchaikovsky, Brahms, Sibelius and Shostakovich as well as newly commissioned works.

Shoji works regularly with top conductors including; Yuri Temirkanov, Zubin Mehta, Gianandrea Noseda, Mariss Jansons, Paavo Järvi, Vladimir Ashkenazy and Osmo Vänska and performs with leading orchestras such as; St Petersburg Philharmonic, The Mariinsky and NHK Symphony as well as Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia

Highlights of Sayaka’s 2019/20 season include tours with the Philharmonia Orchestra to the UK and Japan under the batons of Vladimir Ashkenazy and Esa Pekka-Salonen respectively. In addition, she will make her debut with The Cleveland Orchestra and give concerts in Belfast with Ulster Orchestra, as well as returning to St Petersburg to perform Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto with the St Petersburg Philharmonic and Yuri Temirkanov for the closing concert of their season.

Sayaka remains interested in cross-arts projects and continues her work with Japanese choreographer, Saburo Teshigawara, for a combined music and dance project featuring works by amongst others; Stravinsky, Sylvestrov, Hindemith and Pärt. Alongside her concert activities, she has created an experimental visual arts project called ‘Synesthesia’ where she transforms music into visual forms of expression. She will give recitals with projection of her video work in Paris in April.

In recital, Sayaka has worked with Gianluca Cascioli, with whom she has recorded the complete Beethoven Sonatas for Piano and Violin. This season, she will give chamber music concerts with Nicholas Angelich and Modigliani Quartet and tour with Vikingur Ólafsson including a date at the Wigmore Hall.

Last season, Sayaka joined her supporter, Yuri Temirkanov and the St Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra on tour to Italy, including performances at Parco della Musica in Rome. The pair have toured extensively with Orchestras including St Petersburg Philharmonic, London Symphony, Philharmonia and Baltimore Symphony to much of Europe, Japan, Mexico, Russia and the USA.

A prolific recording artist, Sayaka has released several albums on Deutsche Grammophon including Sibelius and Beethoven Violin Concertos with the St Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Temirkanov. With Yutaka Sado and the Tonkünstler Orchester she recently released a live disc recorded at the Musikverein, Vienna featuring Bernstein *Serenade*. Other live recordings include sonatas by Mozart, Schubert and Brahms recorded with Menahem Pressler.

Sayaka was educated in Siena and Cologne and in 1999 she took first prize as the youngest and first Japanese winner of the Paganini Competition. She was awarded the Mainichi Art Award in 2016, one of Japan’s most prestigious awards, presented to those who have had a significant influence on the arts. She plays a Recamier Stradivarius c.1729 kindly loaned to her by Ueno Fine Chemicals Industry Ltd.



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