



TOUCHING THE SOUND

SOUTH CAROLINA **etv**



For immediate release:

'Touching the Sound: The Improbable Journey of Nobuyuki Tsujii'

New documentary follows the life of inspirational blind pianist

Premiering on public television stations in May 2020, Peter Rosen's film, "Touching the Sound," documents the extraordinary journey of Nobuyuki (Nobu) Tsujii. Blind from birth, the 24-year-old pianist's handicap -- if a drawback at all -- never affected his ability to play the piano.

In June 2009 at the age of 19, when Nobu rose from the piano, having completed his final Gold Medal winning performance at the 13th Van Cliburn International Piano Competition, audience members leapt to their feet and jurors were moved to tears by his passionate interpretations. The poignant performances by the young pianist from Japan, and the resulting audience impact, has taken on a momentum that Time Magazine coined "Nobu Fever."

He returned to Japan a national hero, much the same way that Van Cliburn himself returned to a ticker-tape parade in New York City after winning his first Tchaikovsky Competition in Russia in 1958, causing a thaw in the Cold War between the Soviet Union and America. Twenty news crews greeted Nobu at the Tokyo airport. His photographs appeared on the covers of pop music and rock magazines, and his CDs became best-sellers. Nobu's recording sales statistics have catapulted him to rock star status in Japan, and he has become a natural magnet for international media attention. He firmly believes that "there are no barriers in the world of music."

"Touching the Sound" follows Nobu from his first experience with music as a toddler, through lessons and early struggles to learn the repertoire, to his success at local and international competitions as a pre-teen.

In November of 2011, Nobu's dream to play a debut recital in Carnegie Hall was realized, and some moments of the concert are highlighted in the documentary. Additional behind the scenes tour footage and performances were documented during his American tour in March 2013.

In spite of his triumphs in the world of classical music, Nobu's life changed dramatically during and after the March 2011 earthquakes and tsunami in Japan. He realized that as a musician there was much he could do to help people suffering devastating losses. His music could bring hope to those who had lost loved ones and possessions during the catastrophe that killed 20,000 people and displaced hundreds of thousands of families in the Tohoku region of northeastern Japan.

Set against the backdrop of the music of Chopin, Beethoven, Rachmaninoff and Liszt, as well as Nobu's own uplifting compositions, this film is an inspiration to all people who face disabilities, challenges or obstacles in life.

"Touching the Sound: The Improbable Journey of Nobuyuki Tsujii" was produced by Peter Rosen Productions, Inc. and is presented by South Carolina ETV and distributed by American Public Television.

About Peter Rosen

Peter Rosen has produced and directed over 100 full-length films and television programs which have been distributed world-wide and have won awards at all the major film festivals. He has worked directly with some of the most important figures in the arts such as Leonard Bernstein, Yo-Yo Ma, Beverly Sills, Sherrill Milnes, Stephen Sondheim, Alexander Godunov, Midori, Martha Graham, Placido Domingo, Van Cliburn, Claudio Arrau, Byron Janis, I. M. Pei, and Garrison Keillor.

About South Carolina ETV and Public Radio

South Carolina ETV (SCETV) is the state's public educational broadcasting network. Using television, radio and the web, SCETV's mission is to enrich lives by educating children, informing and connecting citizens, celebrating our

culture and environment and instilling the joy of learning. SCETV currently produces and, or presents “Beyond Barbados: The Carolinas Connection,” “Reconnecting Roots,” “Reel South,” “Somewhere South” with Chef Vivian Howard and “Yoga in Practice” on public television in addition to national radio productions “Song Travels,” “Piano Jazz” and “Chamber Music” from Spoleto Festival USA.

About APT –

American Public Television (APT) is the leading syndicator of high-quality, top-rated programming to the nation’s public television stations. Founded in 1961, APT distributes 250 new program titles per year and more than one-third of the top 100 highest-rated public television titles in the U.S. APT’s diverse catalog includes prominent documentaries, performance, dramas, how-to programs, classic movies, children’s series and news and current affairs programs. Doc Martin, Midsomer Murders, America’s Test Kitchen From Cook’s Illustrated, AfroPoP, Rick Steves’ Europe, Christopher Kimball’s Milk Street Television, Front and Center, Lidia’s Kitchen, Kevin Belton’s New Orleans Kitchen, Simply Ming, The Best of the Joy of Painting with Bob Ross, James Patterson’s Kid Stew and NHK Newslines are a sampling of APT’s programs, considered some of the most popular on public television. APT also licenses programs internationally through its APT Worldwide service and distributes Create®TV — featuring the best of public television’s lifestyle programming — and WORLD™, public television’s premier news, science and documentary channel. To find out more about APT’s programs and services, visit APTonline.org.

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