Sayaka Shoji
Violin

Sayaka Shoji has become internationally recognised for her unique artistic versatility and detailed approach to her chosen repertoire. Her remarkable insight into musical languages comes from her mix of European and Japanese backgrounds. Shoji was born in Tokyo when she was three and moved to Siena, Italy. She studied at Accademia Musicale Chigiana and Cologne’s Musikhochschule, making her European debut with Lucerne Festival Strings under Rudolf Baumgartner at Lucerne Festival, then at Musikverein, Vienna at the age of fourteen.

Since winning first prize at the Paganini Competition in 1999, Sayaka Shoji has been supported by leading conductors such as Zubin Mehta, Lorin Maazel, Semyon Bychkov, Mariss Jansons, Yuri Temirkanov, and Esa-Pekka Salonen. She has also worked with renowned orchestras including Berliner Philharmoniker, Wiener Symphoniker, Los Angeles Philharmonic, New York Philharmonic, London Symphony Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, BBC Symphony Orchestra, The Mariinsky Orchestra, NHK Symphony Orchestra and Czech Philharmonic, among others.

Highlights of the 2025/26 season include her concerts with Israel Philharmonic with Lahav Shani, Sinagpore Symphony with Masaaki Suzuki, and Camerata Salzburg. Last season saw her performances with San Francisco Symphony, hr-Sinfonieorchester, Cleveland Orchestra, Rotterdam Philharmonic, and Orchestra dell’Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia. She also performed for the opening concert of the new Busan Concert Hall, alongside pianist/conductor Myung-whun Chung and cellist Jian Wang.

As an active chamber musician, in addition to 15 years of collaboration with Gianluca Cascioli, she has a long-standing collaboration with many artists including Modigliani Quartet, Benjamin Grosvenor, Beatrice Rana, Kian Soltani, Steven Isserlis, Stephen Kovacevich, and Víkingur Ólafsson. Shoji regularly appears in recital in venues such as Philharmonie de Paris, Wigmore Hall, Suntory Hall, and Hamburg Laeiszhalle.

In addition to her concert activities, Shoji launched an experimental visual-music project, *Synesthesia*, in 2007, and has also created oil paintings and video art. Her first video work (Shostakovich Prelude collaboration with P.Frament) was chosen in a group exposition *​Au-delà de mes rêves* in 2014 among the most renown artists such as Y.Kusama, S.Calle and R.Longo. Shoji has also collaborated with Tadao Ando, Hiroshi Sugimoto, and Saburo Teshigawara on numerous occasions.

As a prolific recording artist, Shoji has released eleven albums on Deutsche Grammophon, featuring violin concertos by Prokofiev, Sibelius, and Beethoven with St.Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Yuri Temirkanov. Her earlier recordings include a recital album with pianist Menahem Presseler. In February 2025, she released a second volume of a Mozart album from ARCANA with Gianluca Casiocli, following her previous album of complete Beethoven Sonatas for Piano and Violin.

Shoji won 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. In 2012, Nikkei Business named her one of the 100 Most Influential People for Japan in the Future. In 2025, she was awarded the 37th Music Pen Club Music Award (Solo Artist category).

Sayaka Shoji plays a Stradivarius ​‘Recamier’ c.1729 kindly loaned to her by Ueno Fine Chemicals Industry Ltd.