

PTNA

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News Letter 2005

www.piano.or.jp/english

New mission of PTNA is "School Kids"

PTNA Prize Winners go to school classroom

PTNA started "Classroom Concert Project" in June 2005. Selected pianists go to elementary schools to give concerts as a special music lesson. This is designed at one-classroom basis, not big auditoriums, so that pupils can easily communicate with pianists. They can feel free to listen and enjoy music around the piano, rather than sit in silence.

Pianists are PTNA past prize winners, who have enthusiasm to play for school kids. Noriko Sato(27), the 2001 grand prize winner, is the one who agrees with this project. She appeared in the classroom of 4th grade(age 9-10) with a clarinetist. The program was 45 min consisted of serious pieces and entertaining musics. What interested the kids most was her brilliant technique in Chopin Waltz, Impromptu, and "Immerkleiner" in which every part of the clarinet is taken away along with the music. Surprise and excitement came to their mind.

On November 24th, one of the finalists of 15th Chopin International Piano competition in Warsaw, Ms.Rieko Nezu, (1995 silver medalist of PTNA) also appeared in this project just after coming back from Warsaw. She gave a 90 minutes talk concert in the music room, and pupils, school principal, media came to see the concert. She had a great response from children and said "I was pleased and also overwhelmed by children's questions and reports, who sometimes show great sensibilities even beyond adults."

Another pianist, Junko Nishikawa, PTNA grand prize winner in 1998, also feel sympathy with this communicative concert, as well as the mayer of West Tokyo city where she lives. She has already done three concerts and will appear another 9 elementary

schools in the city by the end of March 2006.

Now the music in the school is slightly

Junko Nishikawa(left) shook hands with the mayer of West Tokyo city, who came to the classroom concert later.



"Why can you move your fingers so fast?" "What a beautiful music...!", "Oh, look at the inside of the piano! The mechanic is so complicated.." "Did you see the bottom? It sounds amazingly" ---Piano becomes friend of them.

decreasing and children have less opportunity to listen to the music with real sounds. Therefore, for most of the pupils, this was the first encounter with the classic music concert. This project is carried out mainly in Tokyo metropolitan area for the time being, but it is expected to be spread out nationwide in a long run.



The clarinetist is the former prize winner of the All Japan Clarinet competition. "High standard" and "Locality" is the key features of this project.

left)Posters were displayed in the elementary school.

right)Pupils wrote thank you letters to the pianist and clarinetist.



Boys, members of brass band club, are so curious about the sounds of trumpet.



PTNA piano competition

Grand Prize goes to a Math Teacher!

Among 5 finalists



Always dressed in black, Mr. Kaneko face to face with piano in serene mind.

Mr. Ichiro Kaneko, 42 years old, received the grand prize of 29th PTNA Piano competition this year.

Five finalists were required to play the whole movements of concerto, and one hour solo performance at the final round on August 21st. He played Beethoven No.111 with thoughtful interpretation and especially impressed his intellectuality in commissioned piece "Pandora" by Mr. Masakazu Yamamoto, which was outstanding among 5 finalists who were much younger than him.

He is teaching mathematics at one of the major high schools in Tokyo and at the same time, well known as an amateur pianist. He has been the finalist of grade superior in the last 3 years, but did not reach the prize. This year, his dream comes true.

This result proves competition is not only for young pianists, but also for matured adults who never stop learning.

He is scheduled to have several concerts in Tokyo and abroad in the year 2006, including concerto with Japan Philharmonic Orchestra. In February, he will play Chopin, Szymanowski, Scriabin, Debussy in Torino(23rd) and Bologna(25th).



A new goal for children who love and play piano?



On weekdays, Mr. Kaneko is working as a math teacher. One of his students is join PTNA piano competition.

Diamond cuts diamond?

Youngstars Under 15 take Imora-style masterclass

PTNA established Jr.G grade in 2003 to discover young talented children under 15. This year, special masterclass was arranged for the finalists selected by document screening, inviting prof. Boris Petrushansky from Imora Music Academy. Sitting behind the professor, they were inspired by his words and ideas, and also learned from lessons of other participants.



Prof. Petrushansky taught young pianists of early teenage.

35,517 participants in total

From May to August in 2005, 29th PTNA Piano Competition was held nationwide and 35,517 people in total took part in. It grew by 50% over the past five years. Finalists are ranked in the top 1.5-2.0% of the participants of each grade. Overseas jury members were as follows; Prof. Pawel Kaminski(1st round), Prof. Giuseppe Fausto Modugno, Prof. Francesco Cipolletta, Prof. Peter Toperczer(2nd rounds), Prof. John O'conor, Prof. Jacques Rouvier, Prof. Lee Kum-Sing, Prof. Hee Sung Joo (final rounds).



For the year 2006, we will invite Prof.Tatiana Zelikman from Gnessin Music School in Moskow.

9 young talents meet 3 piano masters

2nd Yasuko Fukuda Scholarship Audition 2005

The 2nd Yasuko Fukuda Scholarship Audition was held on August 25th-27th. This audition was founded after the will of the founder of our association, late Yasuko Fukuda, to discover the outstanding young talent and support him/her to study abroad, by offering scholarship of 1,000,000yen(approx.9,000\$).



Each lesson was a process of understanding students' talent, musicality and personality.

Candidates are required to pass the following two stages; 1.document screening (March 2005) / 2. three lessons and concert(August 2005). For the 2nd. stage, three international professors select the winner of "Yasuko Fukuda prize". This year, Prof.Jacques Rouvier(Paris Conservatoire de Superior), prof.John O'conor(Director of Royal Irish Academy of Music), and prof.Lee Kum-Sing(Vancouver Music Academy) attended as jury members. Prof.Rouvier was the person who proposed the idea of lesson-audition several years ago.

9 candidates were improved dramatically during the 3days session, and Ms.Rina Sudo was selected to be the winner of 2nd Yasuko Fukuda prize.

Third prize winner, Ms.Arisa Sakai said "This audition is very hard for me to cope with, but I learned quite a lot from three



professors. Each professor advised me to read the music carefully and understand what composers trying to say, and I will try to do that".

Next audition will be held in August 2007.



Ms.Rina Sudo(18) received the Fukuda scholarship.

Prof.Rouvier Prize goes to 4 talents

Gift of 2 hours special lesson by prof.Rouvier

Prof. Jacques Rouvier kindly offered special prizes to four promising students whom he listened to this time at PTNA Piano Competition or Yasuko Fukuda Audition. He gave them 2 hours lessons each, and they were greatly encouraged and musically inspired.



Professors lecture in Tokyo

In January, Prof.Andrzej Jasinski gave lecture of Chopin Mazurka at the teachers' seminar vol.25 in Tokyo. Audience were deeply impressed by the interpretation that mastery of Mazurka suggested.



Prof.Jasinski talked about the essence of Chopin.

In March, Prof.Bruno Rigutto (Paris conservatoire de superior) gave masterclass of Debussy for young pianists. His advises were full

of imagination, and students tried to understand and express the world of impressionism.



Prof.Rigutto was pleased to see the petit pedal that one of PTNA teachers produced.

School is a big supporter of young pianists

Back in town, school celebrates PTNA prize winners

Nowadays public schools are enthusiastic about encouraging pupils who make good achievements. PTNA send letters reporting the result of competition and participants' name list to their local schools, nearly 500 throughout Japan.

One of the participants of 8 years old (2nd grade in elementary school)got an encouragement prize at the second round, and her school principal commended her at the school assembly. She was asked to play 5 pieces on stage, and over 100 pupils of her grade listened to her performance in the auditorium. She spent over 5 months to prepare for the competition, and classmates were very much encouraged by her effort.

Classmates made a hand writing program for her.



And...many news reports of PTNA prize winners on local papers.



STEP & local activities

1st STEP National Assembly in Tokyo

120 piano teachers shared their ideas

The advisers and stations national assembly was held on September 21st in Tokyo. Over 120 people participated in and had discussions and exchanges each other. How to increase participants, how to make cooperation with other local teachers, how to make partnership with local media, schools, music shops, public institutions, private companies, etc., how to improve the balance sheet etc. -- attendants shared knowledges for the development of their local activities.

This year, the number of STEP participant exceeds 100,000 in total since 1997. And the number of station grew remarkably recently, that is, over 30 new stations established every year since 2003. And the average of participants per one venue is 92 people which grew by 35% as compared to 67 in 1997.



Over 120 of piano teachers gathered in Tokyo. They are the representatives of STEP station in their local areas, which are subsidiary organization of PTNA branch offices.

Amateur who has professional spirit

1,000 amateur pianists joined PTNA competition

There is always a question "What is the definition of amateur? --A person who is not living with music or person who didn't receive professional piano education at music college?"

Over 1,000 amateur pianists participated in 29th PTNA piano competition Grandmuse division in 2005. PTNA set up 6 categories so that anyone can take part in, according to their age and background. In A1 category, the highest level for 23 years and older, the 1st prize winner was Ms.Asuka Matsumoto who defines herself as "borderless pianist". She began playing piano at the age of three, graduated from music college and had



The chairperson, Ms.Mutsuko Tozawa(left) is the original proposer of STEP more than 10 years ago, which was based upon her activity in local area. Now it has been spread out nationwide.

a number of prizes and awards in domestic & international competitions. She is now playing jazz, popular along with classics, and also enthusiastic about playing modern music like Nikolai Kapustin.

Another category is for the person older than 40 years old who didn't received professional education at music college. Mr.Alec Weil, working for a piano manufacturing company, consistently joined this competition and has improved his technique and musicality every year. His approach is an

Skills which young piano teachers need

Additional values are required to piano lessons?

Piano lesson is not only teaching piano like decades ago, but rather "human education". Teachers are enthusiastic about acquisition of coaching skill. The idea of coaching, which is popular in business fields, is to discover students' own way of thinking by giving effective questions, instead of top-down advices, and help students to have better understanding and confidence to their music.

Then, what about to-be-piano-teachers? Renovations of curriculum are going on in music colleges. This year, one of the music colleges in Tokyo introduced "music management course". The syllabus is consisted of; mind of management, practical lesson management skills, guest speech by professional piano teachers,

etc. which is conducted by Mr.Seikoh Fukuda, CEO and Secretary General of PTNA. He received Fujita Future Management Awards in 2001 which co-sponsored by Mainichi Newspaper company and weekly journal "The Economist".



A group session of coaching skill for piano teachers, by a licenced coach.



Management class for piano students in the music college.



incentive to other senior piano learners.

Amateur division is not only for seniors. There is a category between 15-22 years old, where lots of students of music colleges and high schools took part in. For them, playing piano with free repertoires in the relaxing atmosphere could be a first step toward a professional "competition".

Amateur is not professional, but could reach quite high level. High motivation, friendly rivalry, and joy of music---their spirits are as same as professional musicians.



On February 26th, Winners concert of 28th PTNA grandmuse division was held in Tokyo, Hakuju Hall.

"Concerts in Town" project

Good for listeners, good for public places

Concerts in the town--- this is a project which we have involved for the last few years. Toyota automobile showrooms, The Nippon Foundation building, etc. those concerts could be a good solution for commercial facilities to attract people, to raise excitement, joy, to enhance exchanges between people. And for players and listeners, it is a good opportunity to meet each other and listen to classic music just around the corner.

The 1st week of May, music festival "La Folle Journee" was imported in Japan from France and over 1,000 musicians from France and Japan played all Beethoven programs in 3 serial days. The Marunouchi area- the economy and financial center of Tokyo, was re-designed like Beethoven village. The primal events were held in Tokyo International Forum building which has four big halls, and some neighboring buildings were used for related events. Amateur pianists of PTNA piano competition prize winners played piano in the main lobby of Marunouchi building just across the Tokyo station. Their piano were sounded beautifully in stairwell, and lots of passersby stopped and



Hundreds of audience and passersby listened to the piano at the lobby of Marunouchi Building, one of the commercial and entertainment centers of Tokyo.

listened to them.

Currently PTNA involves in the research project acknowledged by Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, which advocates the promotion of service sector business in Japan. In a few years, towns and cities in Japan will be filled with music....?

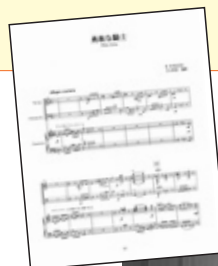


Toyota automobile showroom in Tokyo is always filled with customers. Once music starts, they began to see the pianists instead of automobiles.

Let's do it together!

Partnership between Composers and Piano Teachers

Partnership between independent piano teachers and composers are very productive. Mrs.Mitsuyo Ezaki asked one of the composers to arrange the "25 Easy Studies Op.100" by Johann Friedrich Franz Burgmuller for Piano Trio. She wanted to help little children to study chamber music as well as solo, but there was only a few textbooks available. Therefore she asked a professional composer to make arrangements, based on solo pieces. Piano part keeps the original notes, and violin, violincello, flute, oboe etc. are added upon them. She organized a chamber music festival with another local teachers, to demonstrate those pieces.



"Burgmuller for Piano Trio" ---this custom made music sheet was published later.



22 piano teachers, 2 composers, 6 string&woodwind players, local branch of PTNA (Yamaha music shop) cooperate each other to organize this festival for young pianists

Prizes & Achievements

4 Finalists in XV Chopin competition



Shohei Sekimoto(20) got 4th prize in Chopin Competition, Warsaw. He is scheduled to have more than 60 concerts in 2006 in Japan and abroad.

15th International Frederick Chopin Piano Competition Warsaw was held from 23 September - 24 October, and Mr. Shohei Sekimoto got fourth prize and three other PTNA graduates became finalists; Ms. Yuma Osaki, Ms. Rieko Nezu and Mr. Naomi Kudo Rachel. Mr. Sekimoto

expressed the world of Chopin with dynamism and sensibility, with well controlled technique. He said after the competition that "Result is not all the thing. The most important thing is to prepare thoroughly for this competition, to learn how splendid Chopin musics are, and keep studying to have continued interest from people who love music". He is going to have concerts in the year to come, in Japan and abroad.

Young Pianists in Paris & NY

Four little gifted children invited to play in Paris on March 22nd. They are prize winners of PTNA piano competition in 2005. Among them, Ms. Aimi Kobayashi(9) played Beethoven Sonata No.10 Op.14-2 and Bach



Four little kids aged 8-14 played at Salle Cortot, Paris. Shohei Sekimoto(center), the grand prize winner of PTNA in 2003, played as a guest.



Partita No.2, whose music sounded like a real artist. She was invited by AAGDT to play in NY Carnegie Zankel Hall, together with Mr. Shohei Sekimoto last June.

88-year-old teacher gave lecture in Germany

88-year-old piano teacher, Ms. Katsue Fujisawa was invited to Manheim, Germany to have masterclass for students. She is a mastery of effective use of fingers and arm, which enables to produce various sounds according to the period and style.

Her technique was well received by participants and they were remarkably changed after she taught. Professors of academy also came on to the stage to make demonstration performance.



Students were changed after she taught how to use arm effectively.

Vice Chairperson of PTNA awarded by Country

Professor Emeritus Yasuko Nakayama(84), the vice chairperson of PTNA received "The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Rosette" from the Emperor last May. This ceremony has been conducted twice a year to give award



of honor to the people who make outstanding achievements of their professional area. She is one of the pioneering figures in the music education field in Japan, and has produced a number of outstanding pianists over 5 decades. She had studied at Tokyo Music school (predecessor of Tokyo University of fine arts and music) under Prof. Leonid Kreuter, later studied in Germany under prof. Walter Giesecking. She had been served as professor of her alma mater, and later became professor emeritus. rs,



With Prof. Giesecking.

she is devoting herself in organizing concerts specialized in Beethoven, Mozart, Liszt, Schubert...etc. in which her alumni play, to propose the authentic interpretation of those music to younger generations.

Piano teacher in town teaches at Music College



Piano teacher recently have opportunity to make the most of their practical knowledge and experiences of teaching skills to college students. Ms. Atsuko Fujiwara had a lecture and workshop for 40 senior students of piano department at Tokyo College of Music. She is well known for her dedication to the promotion of Bastien Method for almost 35 years. She has



First time for college students to see the textbooks and goods for little kids.

brilliant achievements of teaching piano for little kids, from beginners to intermediate level, and awarded 18 times in PTNA Piano Competition.

Students had an impressive moment with Ms. Fujiwara who knows how to teach musicality and technique at the same time to little kids. Some students said "Oh, I didn't know that teachers should teach that much!", "It takes time to understand the fact that 'children know nothing' ". For them, teaching somebody who doesn't know anything is very hard, but much interesting than they had been expected.

Piano teacher becomes No.1 Haiku Poet among 3,000

Mrs. Yuriko Hirama selected to be the Best Haiku poet among 3,000 applications in "National Haiku Award" organized by NHK Japan Broadcasting Corporation. Haiku is like a poem which has a form of 5-7-5 word phrase. It shows her sensibility and variety of vocabulary fits in this traditional art form.



The first encounter of Haiku was during a piano lesson 2 years ago. When one of her students played Mozart Sonata, she saw fallen petals of pink cherry blossom outside of the window, which seemed to symbolize the beauty of Mozart music -- the beauty of life and great spirit. "Music and haiku has lots of similarities. So far and from now on, I would like to discover the sensation and excitement that every student has in mind, and try to pull them out on piano, just as I do with piano and Haiku.

Custom made music album "Musse" One and Only music album for you....!

What if we could buy music only what we would like to play? Through "Piano Encyclopedia" page of PTNA website, (<http://www.piano.or.jp>) customers can create their "only one

in the world" music album. They randomly select their favorite music pieces from our list, (not downloadable) and we reprint and compile them into one book. The actual book will be bound up with covers and delivered to the customer. This service is available for domestic only (Japan).

This on-demand printing system could open a whole new market in Japan, with an optimal way to reproduce out-of-print products, as well as to utilize existing stocks. The "Piano Encyclopedia" pages display thousands of music database and sound clips, and the scorebook icon are added when the score available.

The key features of this system can be explained with the following four factors.

(1)Originality- "The only one in the world" music book is now available to publish. Customers can select their favorite pieces from the varieties of editions. Pieces are compiled in their favorite order. Customers are able to name the title of the book.

(2)Borderless- Customers can select pieces beyond the editions. It is possible to compile a repertoire with several different editions in one book.

(3)Efficient and Affordable- Buy only the pieces needed. Repertoires are provided by several major publishers of both domestic and foreign countries. Retail price starts from 50 Japanese yen per page. (Minimum order of 10 pages at a time) We accept orders from a single copy.

(4)High Quality and high speed- Cooperation with a subsidiary owned by Fuji Xerox Company, we can provide the finest-quality production in short time. (Takes only 7-10days from receiving order to delivery)

For the time being, 600 pieces are available; Cooperation companies are; Musikverlag Doblinger, Neil A. Kjos Music Company, Editio Musica Budapest, Breitkopf & Haertel, Ton Kikaku, Oct Music Publishing Company, etc.



Online projects "Competition Reviews", "Piano of the week" "Piano Encyclopedia"...

A new way of supporting piano market?

PTNA released online daily reviews of 15th International Frederick Chopin Piano Competition Warsaw on our website. Mr. Takayoshi Isayama wrote all the reviews of contestants and it has been drawn great attention from viewers in Japan. The record of over 180,000pv/day showed how people were interested in it. This review project started from the previous Chopin competition 5 years ago, and since then, he reported

2002 Tchaikovsky, 2003 Queen Elizabeth, 2003 Hamamtsu, 2003 China, 2004 Verbier Festival etc.

Another online project, "Piano of the week" is also active. This is to introduce audio sounds of piano piece every week, which was offered by pianists on voluntary basis. Program note of the music, profile of pianists are displayed with sound clips, aiming at promotion of both piano music and pianist. Currently sound clips from 106 pianists are reserved.

<http://www.piano.or.jp>

Prizes & Sponsors

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Past prize winners and further career
Shohei Sekimoto(4th, Chopin 2005)
Kotaro Fukuma(1st, Cleveland 2003)
Yuma Osaki(3rd Leeds 2003, 3rd Geneve 2002)
Rina Sudo (4th, Hamamatsu 2003)
Kazumasa Matsumoto
(5th, Queen Elisabeth 2003)
Yoko Kikuchi (1st, Mozart 2002)
Hibiki Tamura(2nd, Ettlingen 2002)
Mika Sato(6th, Chopin 2000)

Past Jury
Paul C. Pollei
(1979,1985,1996, 2003)
Andrzej Jasinski(1981)
Klaus Schilde(1988)
Christopher Elton(1992)
Sergey L.Dorensky(1993)
Oxana Yablonskaya(2000)
Bruno Rigutto(2003)
Yoheved Kaplinsky(2004)
Zhou Guangren(2004)
Jacques Rouvier(2005)
John O'conor(2005)
Lee Kum-Sing(2005)

30th PTNA Piano Competition for Promising Pianists

Final Round: 20th-22nd August, 2006 Tokyo

Grand Prize: 1,000,000yen, Concerto with Japan Philharmonic Orchestra,
Concerts in Japan and abroad

<http://www.piano.or.jp/english/>

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*alphabetical order, omit titles