

2006

PTNA

Celebrating 40th Anniversary

# News Letter

## 11,000 Piano Teachers Network Expands

11,000 teachers, 300 branches & stations, committees, are voluntarily involved.

**P**TNA is celebrating the 40th anniversary since its establishment in 1966 by late Madame Yasuko Fukuda. For the betterment of the pedagogical skills of piano teachers, and exploring cultural and artistic activities by ways of piano, we have carried out many things in the past 40 years. At the moment, there are more than 11,000 PTNA members, and over 300 branches and stations in the country. And nearly 200 committee members currently involved in the administration of PTNA. Following two committees are some of them.



Mr. Krystian Zimerman and the members of PTNA Festival committee. (May 5th, 2006)

more than 1,400 teachers and students, all listening earnestly to each word of Mr. Zimerman. For this event, committee members spent time in planning and organizing. Also all the advertisement and administration were done by the committee members. (Cooperation by Steinway Japan)

In the second event we had Mr. Franz Mohr, the piano tuner of Vladimir Horowitz,

as the guest lecturer. We also welcome a model pianist Alexander Kobrin from Russia, who performed Chopin's Nocturne and music by Rachmaninoff on the Steinway piano No.314,503 that Horowitz loved. The concert hall was filled with big applause.

### The Engine of PTNA- Committee

**F**estival Committee--Prof. Mieko Harimoto (professor of Tokyo College of Music) as chairperson, 30 members of Festival Committee takes charge of planning and executing major festivals once a year. The committee is made of music college professors and independent piano teachers.

This year three major events were organized for celebrating the 40th anniversary of the foundation of PTNA; "Zimerman Talks about the Heart of Music" (May 5th), "The Ultimate Piano that the Masters Sought" (December 1st), and "Evening of Piano Concertos" (March 28th), and first two of them were led by festival committee.

In the first event, we welcomed renowned pianist, Mr. Krystian Zimerman in a public master class form (model pianist: Shohei Sekimoto) and lecture. The audience was

**C**ompetition Repertoire Selection Committee--PTNA piano competition changes repertoires every year, aiming at effective learning of music. The Committee (Chair:Ms.Mitsuyo Esaki) of 30 teachers takes leadership of selecting those required pieces.

One of the characteristics is that pieces from four different periods (baroque, classical, romantic, contemporary) are required to each grade. It intends to make children study all periods of style thoroughly, as well as to understand the broad range of music all over the world.

Mr.Shohei Sekimoto who won the Grand Prix in 2003 (who is also the fourth prize winner in the 2005 Chopin International Piano Competition in Warsaw) is one of those who has studied through our system since elementary school.

left) Maestro Zimerman at masterclass(May)



right) Mr.Franz Mohr and Mr.Alexander Koblin at festival (Dec)



326 teachers received Teachers' Award of 2006 at PTNA Piano Competition.



# 30th PTNA Piano Competition

## Hitomi Maeyama, a new Grand Prix born

The 30th PTNA Piano Competition was held from May through the end of August 2006. Ms. Hitomi Maeyama (19, Moscow Conservatory) became the grand prize winner, and was offered the opportunity to tour around Germany and Italy. (December 16th, Mannheim Youth Orchestra, February 17th, Bologna Academia Philharmonica)

In Ms. Maeyama's solo repertoire including Mendelssohn, Haydn and Rachmaninoff, and Mozart concerto No.20, her sensible musicality and personality were well presented. She also received high appreciation from audience. This year, orchestra was adopted for the concerto adjudication of Grade Superior. We are planning to use professional orchestra further on in 2007.

This year's international jury was Prof. Guiseppe Fausto Modugno (Music Advisor of Accademia Filarmonica di Bologna), Prof. Kim Daejin (Professor of Korean Arts University), and Prof. Douglas Humpherys (Co-chair of piano faculty, Eastman School of Music). For the second round, Prof. Jean Fassina(France), Prof. Gabriel Kwok(Hong Kong), and Prof. Francesco Cipolletta(Italy) were also served as international judges.



### Hitomi Maeyama

Born in 1987, Yokohama, JAPAN. Prizewinner at the 2001 Kanagawa Piano Competition, her most recent achievements include 6th prize at the Gina Bachauer International Young Artists Competition (2005), and Grand Prize and Audience Prize at the 30th PTNA Piano competition (2006). After giving an outstanding performance with the Kanagawa Philharmonic Orchestra, Hitomi has participated in the renowned Hamamatsu International Piano Academy in 2004, and her performances in master classes and concerts in France, Japan and Moscow have been met with much critical acclaim. She is currently studying at the Moscow Conservatory under Pavel Nersessian, and with Fumiko Eguchi in Japan.

## Young talents meets Prof. Zelikman

Discovery and nurturing young talents through the competition is one of our objectives. Jr.G grade is designed especially for the special talents under 16. This year, the masterclass for Jr.G finalists was held in June, inviting Prof. Tatiana Zelikman from Moscow.



Prof. Tatiana Zelikman (Moscow Gnessins music liceum) gave 2 days masterclass to 16 young pianists.

## Winners' concert with international guest

In March 2007, there will be a commemoration concert for prize winners of solo and duo division, and 40 laureates will perform. We are planning to invite a guest performer from China (Ms. Wan Yijia, 2nd prize in International Piano Competition for young pianists in Beijing 2006).



In 2006 March, the guest pianist Mr. Kuok-Wai Lio (left/Hong Kong) played together with one of the prize winners, Akihiro Sakiya.

## Amazing Amateurs !

The presence of amateur piano lovers is stimulating piano learners as well. In 1990, PTNA started the Senior Division (now changed its name to Grand Muse Division), and nowadays there are more than 1,500 candidates in total participated in this division.

They showed a variety of repertoires, from classical pieces to contemporary works such as Melartin, Montsalvatge, etc.

In February 2007, there will be a commemoration concert for winners of the Grand Muse Division, inviting a guest pianist from Canada, Mr. Thomas Yu (winner of 2006 International Piano Competition for Grand Amateur, Paris).



from left) Prof. Kim (Korea), Prof. Humpherys (U.S.), Prof. Modugno (Italy)

# PTNA

## 2005 Grand Prix Tour in Italy

**L**chiro Kaneko (43), the 2005 grand prize winner, made his tour debut in Italy. Mr. Kaneko, works in a senior high school as a chief mathematic teacher, took a week off from work for this tour. He performed in Turin, just in the middle of the winter Olympic games, and the historical city Bologna. He successfully performed works by Debussy, Symanowski and Scriabin, which was followed by a big applause from the audience.



## The 31st PTNA Piano Competition & the 3rd Yasuko Fukuda scholarship audition

**T**he next competition is to be held from May to August 2007. The international jury in the final round will be following three professors, Prof. Erik Tawaststjerna, Prof. Dominique Merlet and Prof. Mikhail Voskresenski. Mdm Yasuko Fukuda Scholarship Audition will follow on the next day. This is an audition for nine talented pianists under the age of 18, and there will be one lesson from each of three judges, and 30 min concert in public. The highest prize winner will be awarded a scholarship of one million yen, which is advised to be used for studying abroad. Prof. Piotr Paleczny, Prof. Merlet and Prof. Voskresenski will be on jury panel.

## Why Quantity? --in pursuit of Quality

“A genius is always born from the crowd.” This used to be the basic philosophy of late Yasuko Fukuda, the founder of PTNA. As it may prove, we had over four hundred thousand piano learners and lovers in total in the past 30 years, and the more the applicants increased, the higher the standard became. In 2006, a total of 38,045 people participated, which was the biggest number we had ever experienced. Also many talents of new generation were discovered. We want to keep offering as many opportunities to young pianists to develop their qualities.



*Follow up Lessons by Prof. Jacques Rouvier(left) and Prof. John O'Conor(below), judges of 2005 Yasuko Fukuda Scholarship Audition.*



## 40 years of PTNA history--to inherit the artistry and beauty of piano in Japan

### Yasuko Nakayama

(Vice president of PTNA, Professor emeritus of Tokyo University of fine arts and music)



Forty years ago, late Mdm Yasuko Fukuda, the founder of PTNA said, “local piano teachers may have studied seriously in music colleges, but all teach in many different ways. As for PTNA (previously called “Tokyo Music Study Society”), we would

like to address one stable ideal method as a flag mark.” Her ‘ideal’ was to expand the base of the pyramid of piano culture in Japan. It means to share the joy of music with people of broader range of age, level and background, as well as to enhance the general level of piano in Japan.

It was twenty years ago that PTNA was acknowledged by the Japanese government. I telephoned as many

college professors I knew, so we could have a nice list of important teachers as starting lineup. Thus “The Piano Teachers’ National Association of Japan, Incorporated by the Japanese Government” officially made its fresh start.

Not only to enjoy performing, what we aim to do is to inherit the proper tradition of classical music. Especially in PTNA, where we teach many small children, we would like to keep in mind to have “beautiful and proper” way of thinking; in regards of musical expression, performance, and music life as a whole. I hope the members of PTNA understand those ideas, and will continue to do so in the future.



*left) Over 2,500 kids took part in the youngest grade in 2006 (A2, under 6). right) President of PTNA Mr. Tsutomu Hata and Mdm. Fukuda in 1985.*

# PTNA Piano STEP

10 years of STEP history--More than hundred thousand participants

This year we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the establishment of PTNA Piano STEP. STEP is a system that encourages piano studies, and we offer a stage performance opportunity in which one can freely express themselves up on stage. In the past 10 years, participants have risen to more than a hundred thousand learners and lovers in total.

Along with 23 grades, participants can continue their piano study effectively. They could choose required pieces from more than 3,000 music, which are chosen by the required piece selection committee. This includes introductory methods which enables small children to participate as well. (the youngest participant we have had was a two year old pianist!) In the past few years, popular music gained greater popularity, and animation music by Disney and Miyazaki are very frequently played.

countrywide satellites~ 180 Stations

For organizing STEP, there are more than 180 places of Stations in the country (as of 2006 Dec). Station is a PTNA regional organization that consists of small number of local piano teachers. Once accredited, it is entitled to do the administration of STEP. One of the most active areas is Kobe-city of 1.5 m population, where 8 Station has been established since 2002.

Owing to this local administrations, nowadays teachers expand their activities to organize workshops, teaching seminars inviting famous professors, master classes etc.

*STEP participants, from school students to office workers, played with orchestra. (Fujisawa STEP/ Sept.2006)*



Successful partnership with local orchestra

Concerto is usually regarded as the special occasion for "professional pianists". But why not for children or amateurs? Recently, thanks to Station, the local administrative body by independent teachers, they enables to offer opportunities to their students and children in local area to play concerto.

Success was due to the partnership with local amateur orchestra and conductor. The representative of Fujisawa Station(Kanagawa pref.), Ms.Kaneko planned the Mozart Concerto STEP and asked for cooperation to local musicians. School students, piano teachers, office workers, and even jazz pianist applied. One of the participants said " It is a wonderful occasion to play with full orchestra! It is totally different from playing with two pianos, and it was such an excitement to hear my sound mixed together with the orchestral sound."

Teachers are now trying to increase this kind of opportunity so that as many piano learners and lovers could experience.

Well focused, Deep learning

Within the framework of STEP, teachers can freely set up particular study subjects. To encourage them, professors or musicians specialized in those fields are appointed as Advisors.

In the coming February, Mozart STEP will be held where students play Mozart exclusively. Dr. Bin Ebisawa, one of the world-renowned authorities of Mozart, will attend as the advisor. Participants are expecting deep learning through this STEP.



# PTNA

## A high school girl, 50 stages in 8 years...!

A high school girl reached 50 times of stage performances since 1998. She was awarded and got chance to play in the joint concert held in a big hall.

We recommend students to play in public and give awards to those who participated in competition or STEP more than five times. Over 800 junior and senior high school students already received 10 times award, and most of them say "I want to keep it going!". PTNA branch offices are now trying to give bigger stages for them, to encourage that continuing learning effort is properly rewarded.

## Hand written comments for learning support

Three Advisors are sent to each STEP, and all participants get a hand-written comments from them. Sometimes participants exceed 100 people in a day, advisory works become very hard. The major difference from that of competition is that comments are not only critical evaluation of performances, but rather, encouragement of their piano study and advices for their improvement.

Thanks to all the descriptive comments, local teachers and participants made steady improvement and became highly motivated.

## Photo album of STEP



top: STEP in salon concert style(left), Special workshop for studying history of keyboard instruments(center), ensemble of piano & voice(right).



above)playing with Japanese traditional string instrument,



Various stages of STEP-- young pianist and storytellers(left), piano with saxophone and flute(center), etc.



left) A briefing session for STEP.  
above) Chief of STEP committee, Ms.Mutsuko Tozawa.

## STEP goes to music colleges

STEP is not only organized by independent teachers, but also held by partnership with music colleges and conservatoires. It is a good phenomenon that colleges open their gates to broader range of music learners.

Furthermore, a few music college students took part in the internship program between PTNA, and some of them worked as event staff in STEP.

## STEP, the reason of expanding

Station Training Committee--"Station", which is the administrative power base of STEP, is established all over Japan. 12 of committee members take initiative for its promotion.

At present, more than 180 Stations exist and still increasing. Each station strengthens the network of local teachers and enhances cultural activities of local society.

## Seminars, Website & other activities

### Seminars by overseas professors

**P**TNA Teachers' Seminar is annually held in Tokyo. This year, we invited Pro. Andrzej Jasinski (Poland) and Prof. Konrad Richter (Austria) as lecturers. Prof. Richter talked about Mozart and its beauty, whereas Prof. Jasinski gave masterclass of Chopin, especially focused on Mazurka.



we can also find abolished music scores, repertoire of unpublished composers, contemporary musics, and many more.



For example, musics of Alesandre Rosenblatt, whose music got bigger attention among amateur pianist in Japan nowadays, become available at Musse. Since the price of each page and binding is quite reasonable, one can enjoy music and study at their own way.

\*Musse opens an opportunity of presenting new compositions. Composers can sell their own work without any expenses. \*\*The copyright of all works and music scores belongs to each publisher and/or composer.



### Enhancing active participation to website

#### Piano Encyclopedia expands

**R**enewal of the PTNA piano homepage has completed in December. Pages are categorized by “Learn”, “Listen”, “Participate”, “Perform”, and “Search”, so that readers will be able to involve more actively into our activities.

The largest access number we have at the moment is in the “Search” category, the “Piano Repertoire Encyclopedia”. Starting this service in 2002, the page view is more than eight hundred thousand hits every month, which is 40% of



all the PTNA browsing access. We are still looking for more recordings of any piano repertoire and reviews, so please feel free to contact our Tokyo headquarters anytime.

#### On-demand music selling “Musse”

**O**n-demand music score selling service “Musse” celebrated its first year. In Musse, one can buy music scores from one piece, and able to create one’s original music book.

At the moment, publishers such as Edition Peters, Musica Budapest, Breitkopf, Doblinger, and Kjos etc, joined this project, and thousands of pieces can be purchased. In Musse,

### Pianists & Teachers play for kids in local schools

**P**TNA classroom concert project launched in 2005, has been successfully spread out in Tokyo metropolitan area and other regions. About 7,000 pupils in 80 schools took part in the project so far, and live performances are greatly appreciated by school kids.

Nowadays, piano teachers goes independently to their local schools to do the same kind of concert.



*Mr. Kazumasa Matsumoto, 5th prize in 2003 Queen Elizabeth competition, played at a local school of his home town.*

### Collaborative Pianist Project launched

**T**his service is one of our newest projects. PTNA has started a service of introducing a network of collaborative pianists (accompanists) within the PTNA website. Each collaborative pianist (PTNA members only) who wants to register will get his or her own page of information, and is listed in the website. Instrumentalists and singers are able to fill in the online form to arrange an ensemble, and PTNA serves as the go-between. In PTNA, we are encouraging the value of the “piano” in the music, but in this new service, we intend to pioneer a new market of the communication of pianists and other instrumentalists /singers.

# PTNA

## 20,000 people enjoy free concert at heart of Tokyo

During the national holiday week in May, La Folle Journee au Japon -Fete de Marunouchi 2006- was held throughout the Marunouchi area, Tokyo. Approximately 20,000 people enjoyed touring around the 35 free salon-style concerts.

Marunouchi is one of the Tokyo's popular sites, where Marunouchi Building is situated at its center. We can enjoy a free piano concert every Sunday on the 35th floor of this building, looking down a beautiful view of the Tokyo area in the background. Ayumi Iga, past prize winner of PTNA takes role as the advisor.



Aimi Kobayashi (11) played Mozart concerto No.23 with special orchestra arranged for this festival.

## Reports from abroad

Reports from Vervier music festival (Switzerland), International competitions (Chopin competition for young pianists in Beijing, Hamamatsu in Japan), were introduced on PTNA website. We welcome reports of competitions, masterclass worldwide. (oversea@piano.or.jp)

## Royal College of Music

Audition for 2007-2008 Royal College of Music (UK) was held in Tokyo on November 12th. The Director Dr. Colin Lawson, Prof. Vanessa Latache (head of piano faculty) and Mr. Kevin Porter were served as examiners. This year, 4 students were accepted.



A little pianist played for hundreds of audience.

## International Activities

### International Competition Results

- Rina Sudo (2nd Yasuko Fukuda Award) won fifth prize at the Dublin International Piano Competition in Ireland

- Akihiro Sakiya  
2nd in 'A.M.A. Calabria' Piano Competition (Italy)

- Yuhi Ozaki (Gold Prize of G grade) won first prize at the Ettlingen International Competition (Germany),

- Mariko Furukawa  
3rd in International Music Competition Porto (Portugal)

- Shohei Sekimoto (2003 Grand Prix, Yasuko Fukuda Award), Aimi Kobayashi and Mirai Sumino

performed at Carnegie Hall (New York, sponsored by AADGT)

- Arisa Sakai  
2nd in International Citta di Marsala Piano Competition (Italy)

- Airi Katada  
Special Prize  
The Fifth International Frederick Chopin Competition for Young Pianists (China)

- Yurie Umekawa  
1st in EPTA International competition (Belgium)

### International jury

Noriaki Koka  
2006 AMSA The World Piano Competition (U.S.)

Yuko Ninomiya  
The Fifth International Frederick Chopin Competition for Young

Pianists (China)

- Akira Imai  
Shenzhen International piano competition (China)



left) Rina Sudo in Dublin / right) Airi Katada in Beijing



Shohei Sekimoto (4th Chopin International Competition in Warsaw 2005) played at Carnegie Hall N.Y. He was also awarded Chopin Society Prize in Japan.



# 31st PTNA Piano Competition for Promising Pianists

**Final Round: 21st August, 2007 Tokyo**

Grand Prize: 1,000,000yen, Concerts in Japan and abroad



## ▶ Past prize winners and further career

Rina Sudo (5th, Dublin 2006/  
4th, Hamamatsu 2003)  
Yuhi Ozaki (1st, Ettlingen)  
Shohei Sekimoto (4th, Chopin 2005)  
Kotaro Fukuma (1st, Cleveland 2003)  
Yuma Osaki (3rd Leeds 2003/  
3rd Geneve 2002)  
Kazumasa Matsumoto  
(5th, Queen Elisabeth 2003)  
Yoko Kikuchi (1st, Mozart 2002)  
Hibiki Tamura (2nd, Ettlingen 2002)  
Mika Sato (6th, Chopin 2000)

## ▶ Past Jury

Bruno Rigutto (2003)  
Paul C. Pollei (2003)  
Kyung-Sook Lee (2003)  
Yoheved Kaplinsky (2004)  
Zhou Guangren (2004)  
Marian Rybicki (2004)  
Jacques Rouvier (2005)  
John O'Connor (2005)  
Lee Kum-Sing (2005)  
Daejin Kim (2006)  
Giuseppe Fausto Modugno (2006)  
Douglas Humpherys (2006)

## ▶ Prizes & Sponsors

Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports,  
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/ Seitoku University / Oji Hall / Dai-ichi  
Seimei Hall / Hamarikyū Asahi Hall / Tsuda  
Hall / Suginami Kokaido Co. Ltd. etc.

### PTNA Executive Committee

Chairperson	Tsutomu Hata
Vice-Chairperson	Yasuko Nakayama
Secretary & CEO	Seikoh Fukuda
R&D Director	Mieko Harimoto
Competition's Director	Yuko Ninomiya
Associate Member	Hideo Arashino
Associate Member	Takehiko Abe
Associate Member	Bin Ebisawa
Associate Member	Fumiko Eguchi
Associate Member	Mitsuyo Esaki
Associate Member	Hidemitsu Hayashi
Associate Member	Shigeo Harada
Associate Member	Kan Ishii
Associate Member	Katsuko Kaneko
Associate Member	Reiko Matsuzaki
Associate Member	Susumu Tabuchi
Associate Member	Takashi Takaragi
Associate Member	Tomoko Takeishi
Treasurer	Katue Fujisawa
Treasurer	Hiroko Takeda

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Jacques Chapuis	France	Klaus Schilde	Germany
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Jean-Marie Cottet	France	Regina Smendzianka	Poland
Sergey L. Dorensky	Russia	Fany Solter	Germany
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Rudolf Kehrer	Switzerland	Dan Zhaoyi	China
Lidia Kozubek	Poland	Wu Zuqiang	China
Lee Kum-Sing	Canada		
Peter Lang	Austria		
Istvan Lantos	Hungary		

\*alphabetical order, omit titles