

PTNA NEWS LETTER 2011

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After 3.11 in Japan Revival Through Music

Generosity of People & Solidarity of Musicians

The overwhelming power of nature, fragility of human beings, and the things humankind has created...everyone was faced with the truth when the huge earthquake hit Northeast Japan on March 11th. Since that day, generous support has been given to disaster areas from Japan and abroad. A number of PTNA individual members have conducted charity concerts throughout Japan, and a total amount of donations has reached 11,233,963yen (as of Nov.).

Immediate Reactions

Immediately after March 11th, PTNA tried to confirm the safety of our members living in affected areas. Fortunately we could get in touch with most of them after a few days, but some suffered significantly with the loss of houses and instruments, missing students or friends, or even being evacuated to other prefectures. A lot of PTNA members and branch offices nationwide declared their wishes to offer donations to them through PTNA, as in the case of the Great Hanshin Earthquake in 1995, though, PTNA introduced collective information of public funds / organizations instead. It is based on an idea that daily necessities should be delivered to a wider number of people with the highest priority.

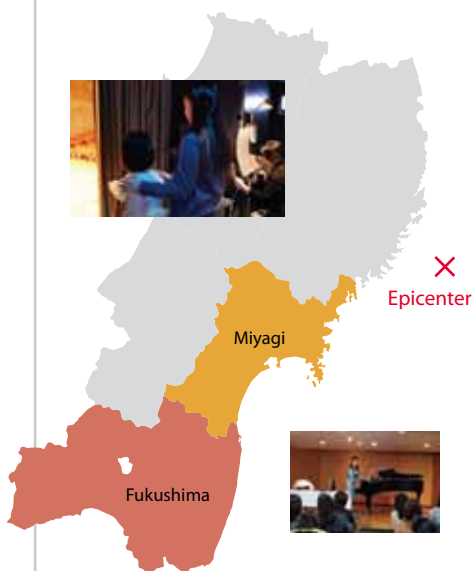
PTNA members Try to Get Back Their Music Lives



Sonoko TAKEUCHI, living in Miyagi, resumed her piano lesson 3 days after the earthquake. In the middle of the shock and confusion of the



aftermath, she finally decided to respond to her students' wish to play piano under any circumstances. As the representative of 'Sendai Orihime Station', she had also been preparing for a seminar to learn the repertoires of the PTNA Piano Competition, which eventually became a special charity event. The lecturer, Yuriko HIRAMA started the seminar with Bach's "Jesus, Joy of Man's Desiring", performed with one of her students. She said "after this earthquake, we became aware that nature is such an awesome and threatening thing, and how fortunate we are to have survived. I would like to support those who cannot resist expressing their joy of being alive, and embracing their precious lives through music". Contributions of 74,550 yen were sent to the Japanese Red Cross Society.



Taking Initiatives For Now & Future A roadmap for recovery and revival of music life

“We become aware that nature is such threatening thing, and how fortunate we are to be survived. I want to support those who cannot resist playing to embrace their precious lives through music” — *Yuriko Hirama*



Mitsue SOEDA (representative of Namie Station) evacuated from Fukushima to Tokyo right after the earthquake. Later

she transferred the administration office to Tokyo and renamed it 'Kyodo Melody Station'. This renewed station will organize STEP in February 2012, accepting as many singers as possible. The arrangement fee for the professional accompanists will be granted by PTNA. "This hardship brought me an opportunity to feel more sympathy for other people. I have always been involved in music, and this commitment gave me great encouragement to move my life forward, with hope and aspiration even under unforeseeable circumstances". Soeda received the Teacher's Award this summer despite the temporary suspension of teaching.

Likewise, many teachers and students from Fukushima are evacuating to other prefectures. Kyoko YOSHIZU, whose three pianos including a Steinway drenched in water, hasn't seen her students since March 11th. It was in July that she met them again in Tokyo, and they had a concert together.



Young Artists At Refugee Shelters' Concerts

On May 21st, a concert was held in Fukushima in an elementary school which has been used as a shelter. Ayumi IGA and Masatoshi YAMAGUCHI visited there and touched the piano that had not been played for 2 months (see cover page). Besides Chopin, Schumann, Liszt, a Japanese traditional song "Furusato" was played at the end of the program and the melancholic sound awakened the eternal affection for the home town. This concert was realized by Yuko HOSOBUCHI, the representative of Iwaki Station who lives nearby the



school. Even with her suffering, she stays and seeks a way to recover the music life there. In July, she had a tea party at her house to share her

experiences with students' mothers and colleagues.

Another concert was held on July 6th in Iwaki performed by Ayuko HIGUCHI. These concerts were partly sponsored by 'the Kokoro-no-Fukko Foundation'. (see next page)

On June 8th, Noriko SATO (pf) and Kimiko NAGAI

(vn) played in three locations in Sendai; a public institution, the salon of a PTNA member, and a public school. Audiences listened to music enthusiastically; even kindergarten pupils sat and quietly listened.



Free Hall Rental For Charity Concerts

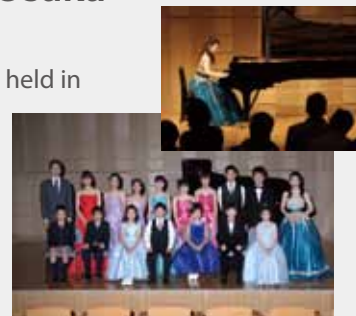
A PTNA charity concert series was

Prize Winners' Concert in Osaka replaced Tokyo

The 2010 PTNA Prize Winners' Concert was held in

Osaka on April 30th. It replaced the one in Tokyo which was recently cancelled due to the earthquake. Tomoyo UMEMURA (2010 Grand Prize winner) played Bach=Busoni's Chaconne, Chopin Nocturne op.9-2 and Ballade op.23. Umemura addressed a message before the concert.

"We would like to play music wholeheartedly, while praying for the rapid recovery and the better future of Japan. We wish the music would be a light of hope."





A charity concert organized by the Pedagogical Research Committee

dedicated to people / areas suffering from the earthquake, the successive tsunami and nuclear power plant problem. PTNA lends To-on Hall free of charge in April and May to help pianists give charity concerts. 14 slots were immediately filled with applicants. Every concert had a full audience, and the admission fees and donations were contributed entirely to NPOs / institutions / funds of their own choosing. The total amount of the donations reached 2,224,877yen.

A Committee Leads Charity

The Pedagogical Research Committee (chair: Katsuko KANEKO) took the initiative in organizing a big charity event on June 19th, in which 18 young pianists (13 students, 5 professional pianists) performed. Rieko NEZU (finalist of 2005 Chopin International Competition) and Yuma OSAKI (3rd in the 2003 Leeds International Competition) were among them. Before the concert, a public rehearsal was held and 10 professors attended. 887,180yen was equally divided and donated to two public funds for supporting suffering musicians.

Benevolence of Artists

Akiko EBI, renowned pianist was scheduled to appear in a PTNA public recording concert on April 22nd, which finally turned out to be a charity concert



upon her request. The admission fees and donations were all given to the Japanese Red Cross Society. She has also appeared in several charity concerts in Paris and Brussels together with Martha Argerich and Yuzuko Horigome among others.

Free Teaching Service for Evacuees

PTNA calls for teachers who can give free lessons to students evacuated from the disaster areas. A newspaper featured that Naomi HONDA started to give lessons to a 9 year-old-girl who was evacuated to Osaka. 146 piano teachers across Japan are now on the volunteer list. (as of August)

Donating Prize Money

The PTNA Teachers' Award, the annual award for piano teachers of high achievement, offered a special charity program to the prize this year. An additional 10,000yen was added to the prize money of 10,000yen, for those who declared to contribute it to charity funds. As a result, 3,200,000yen was donated by 160 prize recipients.

Music Funds Launched

PTNA is introducing several charity funds / programs for music and musicians. One of them is 'Piano Donations for Japan Disaster Affected Public Schools', proposed by Kazufumi YAMASHITA (resident conductor of the Sendai Philharmonic Orchestra) and supported by renowned musicians and educators. It aims at delivering pianos to public



schools that lost their instruments. Michiko SHOJI (representative of PTNA Sendai-Michi Station) who leads the

engineering committee visited one of the most devastated areas in Miyagi, and determined to bring music back to their lives again.

The other is 'Kokoro no Fukkou Ongaku Kikin', the donation to dispatch professional musicians to the stricken areas. Aiming at healing people through music, this fund supports transportation fees of musicians whose aims are to go and play at the refugee centers or disaster stricken areas. Donations are allotted to their transportation fees. The steering committee is chaired by Seikoh Fukuda.



Education for Next Generations

New pedagogical experiments to develop talents

How do we develop young talented musicians? Are there better and more interesting ways to let them explore music? Every teacher asks oneself and PTNA does too.

Winners of PTNA Piano Competition & Yasuko Fukuda Scholarship Audition

The 35th PTNA Piano Competition announced that Tomoki SAKATA (17) won the Grand Prize this year. He played on stunning 50 min solo performance in the semi-final round, and an outstanding Liszt No.1 concerto performance in the final round with the Tokyo City Philharmonic Orchestra (cond.Chikara IWAMURA). This year, a total of 38,503 pianists / groups participated.

On the following days, the 5th Yasuko Fukuda Scholarship Audition was held and Aimi KOBAYASHI (15) won the Yasuko Fukuda Prize, a 1 million yen scholarship. This audition is held to discover outstanding pianists under 18 and to encourage them to study abroad. 9 chosen candidates took lessons from 3 international jury members each (Alexander Braginsky, William Grant Naboré and Katarzyna



Popowa-Zydroń) and played at the final concert. Misora OZAKI and Mayuko MOTOYAMA won the prize for excellence.

Listen And Evaluate Performances As Student Jury

Piano competition is not only for the participants, but also for all students to develop their musical understandings through intensive listening. This year, PTNA introduced the student jury member system at the semi-final round of the grade superior. The target age is from junior high school to post graduate college students. Prior to this event, a lecture was conducted by Ichiro KANEKO (pianist, 2005 Grand Prize winner). He addressed the points which are indispensable for adjudicating the competition in an objective way, referring to the styles and characteristics of four periods, quality of sounds, technique, program building, etc. After listening to the recitals, Yurina OKUMURA (finalist) obtained the highest mark and received the prize of 90,000 yen. Post-interview showed that the impact on the student jury was tremendous as their listening behaviors began to change.



Memorial Concert for Grade A2 Instead of Final Round

In A2 grade, the lowest age group of the PTNA Piano Competition, the final round was replaced to the memorial concert since 2010. On August 21st, the 65 final-



ists of grade A2 gathered at Hamarikyu Asahi Hall, Tokyo. Beautifully dressed, they played music with lots of fun and emotion. A special ensemble stage was also arranged in collaboration with Tomoyo Umemura (2010 Grand Prize winner) and two percussionists.

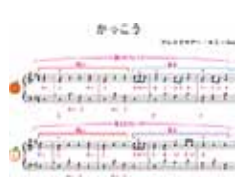
Materials for Supporting Analytical Study

Understanding of the importance of analytical score reading is ongoing. PTNA has been selling the subsidiary materials of required repertoires since 2007, and now the sales amount has increased nearly 10 times since then. This year, the texts are divided into three volumes; for elementary grades (A2, A1, B & duo), intermediate grades (C & duo) and for advanced grades (D, E, F). The analytical study and descriptions are written by 8 professors and scholars. Besides providing basic knowledge about the analysis, the special instruction was offered for grade A2 (around age 4-5). Mitsuyo ESAKI, a member of the PTNA board of trustees, emphasizes the importance of analysis from the earliest stage, as it would help children nurture the structural analy-





Tomoki Sakata played Liszt No.1 with Tokyo City Philharmonic Orchestra (cond.Chikara Iwamura)



sis and esthetic understanding of music. She explains that "Every note has some meanings within the phrases and I hope this score would help them find it out and create music by themselves." Esaki has been serving as the chair of the Selection Committee of Required Repertoires for over 35 years, and received the TOYOTA teacher's special award in 2000.

Music Created from Teacher-Student Dialogues

MUSSE, an on-demand online sheet music publishing service, encourages musicians to publish their original / arranged pieces. Miho ABE (representative of 'Let's play with sound' Station) is a piano teacher whose composition indispensably connects to students' demands in daily piano lessons. Her pieces are frequently written for her students in order to help them improve techniques, harmonic senses, or play together with their family

and friends. Three of her works were chosen to be the required repertoires of PTNA Piano Competition.

Kazuhiko KOYAMA, composer, is often asked to write arranged pieces which enable pianists to play with other instrumentalists. At present, he is arranging pieces for piano and clarinet ('Entertainer', 'Traumerei' etc.) which will be played at a STEP. The working process is always based on dialogue with clients, according to Koyama.



PTNA Starts E-learning!

PTNA starts e-learning service to encourage larger number of piano teachers and students to do in-depth study anytime, anywhere. The program consists of live videos of PTNA seminars and lectures, and each can be viewed repeatedly within 30 days. It is advised to submit a report after learning each program.

International Careers of Young Pianists Expand

The 'Yasuko Fukuda Fund' is supporting winners of the Yasuko Fukuda prize, grade superior and grade G of PTNA Piano Competition to study and play abroad. Tomoki SAKATA (2009 Yasuko Fukuda Prize) and Fuyuko NAKAMURA (2009 Prize for Excellence) appeared at the Kremlin Music Festival in Moscow and Bryansk. They were invited by the late Prof. Nikolai Petrov, who judged in 2009. The Fund also supported transportation fees to those attending overseas seminars; Motohiro SATO (Paris), Fuyuko Nakamura (Musica Mundi, Belgium) etc. It also covers a part of lesson fees of special masterclass by overseas professors: Michel Béroff, Robert Levin, Dina Yoffe, Alexander Braginsky, Luiz de Moura Castro (2011).

2011 PTNA Winners

Tomoki SAKATA (17)



Born in 1993, Tomoki began studying piano at the age of four. He won the Yasuko Fukuda prize in 2009 and the PTNA Grand Prize in 2011. He was invited by

festivals and masterclasses in Austria, Czech Republic, France, Holland and Tokyo. He is currently studying with Hideto Nishikawa and Paul Badura-Skoda. He took many masterclasses led by Michel Béroff, Choong-Mo Kang, William Grant Nabore, Peter Roesel, Jacques Rouvier, etc.

Aimi KOBAYASHI (15)



Born in 1995, Aimi has been studying with Yuko Ninomiya since she was 8. She has been invited to play in many countries including France, Russia,

Poland, Brazil, Japan among others and performed with Frans Brüggen, Vladimir Spivakov, James Judd etc. In 2011, she released the second CD from EMI Classics, made her first solo recital debut in NY Carnegie Hall, and received the Yasuko Fukuda Prize in August.

Get Together, Music Together! Expansion of music and human interactions

Music is a meeting point. PTNA has been creating the crossroads between teachers, musicians and researchers through over 440 STEP, 300 Seminars per year.

PTNA Piano STEP Commemorates 15th Anniversary



PTNA Piano STEP commemorates its 15th anniversary by a special concert on November 27th at Hamarikyu Asahi Hall in Tokyo. 47 individuals / groups of various generations showed solo, chorus, ensemble performances. STEP encourages anyone to perform on stage without a competitive basis, and has created a culture of continuous study, and sense of freedom and solidarity through music making. The number of participants from the inaugural year (1997) has reached 321,200, and the one who has appeared most is Kaori Nakamura, 132 times! In response to the steady increase in the number of ensemble performances, STEP started accepting participants as group units from this year. Components of group can be various; string ensembles, jazz piano trio, chorus, sign language, group rhyth-

mic, and so forth. One of the latest reports proved the group activity lifts up the musical excitement and enthusiasm in life. At Ube STEP, 'Ogenki-Gundan' whose title implies the active senior life, showed exciting ensemble performance with violin, clarinet, flute, ocarina, harmonica, and trumpet.



Seminars As Encounter of New Methods and People

PTNA Teachers' Seminars have been held in almost 300 venues per year since 2007, and the total number of reports being submitted has reached 30,182. Reports are collected after each seminar, given hand-written signatures by the lecturers, and returned to the participants. The recent statistics show that one-third of the participants are under 30 (31%), even teenagers (8%). The largest age groups are 40s (37%) and 50s (25%). Regardless of their ages or

careers, teachers are enthusiastic in developing their music understanding and enhancing their colleagues' networks. The subject of the seminar covers various topics; pedagogy (51.6%), performance (11.4%), interpretation and stylistic understanding (11.2%) and in-depth study of required repertoires of PTNA Piano Competition (25.9%). Yumiko MOTOHASHI, who has already joined seminars 27 times, was particularly impressed with the subject of "Parenthood".

A Lecture; Transitions of Liszt's Composition & Life

PTNA held a 6 hour lecture of Liszt on Sept. 24th. Yukio NOMOTO introduced intensive research on Liszt's technical development, dynamic transition of lifestyle, and characteristics of Liszt's composition style, from program music to anticipation of the atonal music. Two pianists, Mamiko TOMARI and Eri YAMABE gave demonstration performances. This lecture was organized by the Performance Development Committee (chair: Yasuko SUGIMOTO).



2011 PTNA Jury Members

William Grant Naboré



Founder and Director of International Piano Academy Lake Como

Katarzyna Popowa-Zydrón



Professor of the Academy of Music in Gdansk and in Bydgoszcz

Alexander Braginsky



Professor of the University of Minnesota School Of Music, Artistic Director of the Minnesota International Piano-Competition

Kazimierz Brzozowski *

Founder and Director of the International Music Festival in Naleczow, Poland

Andrew Ma *

Professor of the Chinese University of Hong Kong / Lecturer of Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts

*for the 2nd round of grade G



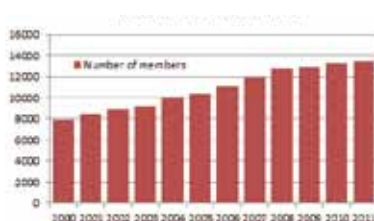
STEP Special Concert to commemorate 15th anniversary (Tokyo)

Research Membership

PTNA research membership is newly added to the following categories; authorized members / teachers/ performers / students / amateurs / supporters / researchers. The number of member is 13,456 as of Nov. 2011.

PTNA gave presentation at FACP Conference

Seikoh FUKUDA (CEO of PTNA), one of the FACP governors, gave a speech at the conference of FACP (Federation for Asian Cultural Promotion) held on November 3-5th in Manila, the Philippines. As an independent organization, he introduced that PTNA is responsible for its policy and finance, and explained how it discovers and nurtures young musicians by offering them musical experiences.

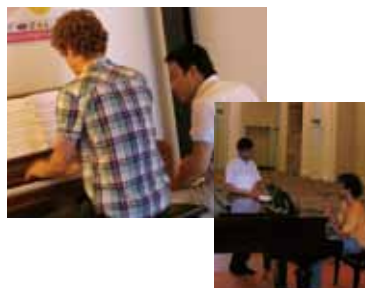


He addressed the importance of musical and human interactions for their further development, and called for the international exchanges. After his speech, Fuyuko NAKAMURA (18) played pieces of Mendelssohn and Scriabin in beautiful tones.



In Music Festivals Abroad

Yukio YOKOYAMA and Masahiro KAWAKAMI were invited to Music Fest Perugia in August, in which they gave lessons and concerts. Yokoyama holds the Guinness record for playing all of Chopin's solo works in a day. Kawakami specializes in Kapstn, which he played in the masters' concert.



Invited to 'Le Projet Aimard'

Two PTNA young pianists were invited to "Le Projet Aimard 2011", the workshop by a renowned pianist Pierre-Laurent Aimard (Toppan hall). Yusuke KIKUCHI and Tomoki SAKATA played and discussed the pieces of J.S.Bach and contemporary period.



Prizes & Awards

Seikoh Fukuda was given an award by MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) commending his long term dedication to education in the society.



Masataka GOTO (2004 PTNA Grand Prize) won the first prize at Liszt

International Piano Competition in Utrecht. He played Liszt No.1 concerto under the baton of Maestro Jaap van Zweden at the final gala concert. He appeared in a special concert at Showa Academia Musicae in July, and all the fees and donations were given to the Japanese Red Cross Society.



Keina SATO (2008 PTNA Grand Prize) received the 2nd prize at the Hong

Kong International Piano Competition in October. She played Beethoven's No.3 concerto with the Hong Kong Symphony Orchestra conducted by Maestro Vladmir Ashkenazy.



Mizuho NAKADA also received the 2nd prize at the 2nd International Piano Competition held in Azerbaijan as a part of the "Gabala International Music Festival".

36th PTNA Piano Competition for Promising Pianists

Final Round : 18th-21st August, 2012 Tokyo

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



► Purpose

To recognise and develop musicians of exceptional talent as well as providing an inspiring music experience to all participants and teachers for greater fulfilment. The goal of the competition is to generate greater musical appreciation among all and achieve the equalisation of levels throughout the country.

► Grade

Grand Superior (no age limit)

► Eligibility

Open to pianists of all nationalities and ages.

► Past prize winners and further careers

Keina Sato (2nd, HongKong, 2011)
Masataka Goto (1st, Liszt, 2011)
Mami Hagiwara (1st, Geneva, 2010)
Nobuyuki Tsujii (1st, Van Cliburn, 2009)
Hibiki Tamura (1st, Long-Thibaud 2007)
Rina Sudo (5th, Dublin 2006)
Yuhi Ozaki (1st, Ettlingen 2006)
Shohei Sekimoto (4th, Chopin 2005)
Kotaro Fukuma (1st, Cleveland 2003)
Kazumasa Matsumoto (5th, Queen Elisabeth 2003)
Yuma Osaki (3rd, Leeds 2003 ; 3rd, Geneva 2002)

► Past Jury

2007 Mikhail Voskresensky
Dominique Merlet
Erik Tawaststjerna
Piotr Paleczny (Yasuko Fukuda Prize)
2008 Matti Raekallio
Vladimir Tropp
Jerzy Sulikowski
2009 Chong-Pil Lim
Nikolai Petrov
Joaquin Soriano
Dina Yoffe
Zhang Jin
2010 Gabriel Kwok
Robert Levin
Christoph Lieske
Warren Thomson
2011 Alexander Braginsky
William Grant Naboré
Katarzyna Popowa-Zydroń

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Dai-ichi Seimei Hall
Senzoku Gakuen
Seitoku Gakuen
Tokyo City Philharmonic Orchestra

Schedule 2012

► First Preliminary Rounds Solo

First Round (1)

Dates: June 23 (Sat) + 24 (Sun)
Deadline: May 21 (Mon)

First Round (2)

Dates: June 30 (Sat) + July 1 (Sun)
Deadline: May 28 (Mon)

First Round (3)

Dates: July 12 (Thu) + 13 (Fri)
Deadline: June 4 (Mon)

► Second Preliminary Round Solo

Dates: August 2 (Thu) + 3 (Fri)
Place: Katsushika Symphony Hills (Tokyo)

► Semi-Final Round Solo

Date: August 18 (Sat)
Place: Dai-ichi Seimei Hall (Tokyo)

► Final Round Concerto

Date: August 21 (Tue)
Place: Dai-ichi Seimei Hall (Tokyo)
Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra
Chikara Iwamura (cond.)



2011 Grand Prize Winner
Tomoki Sakata