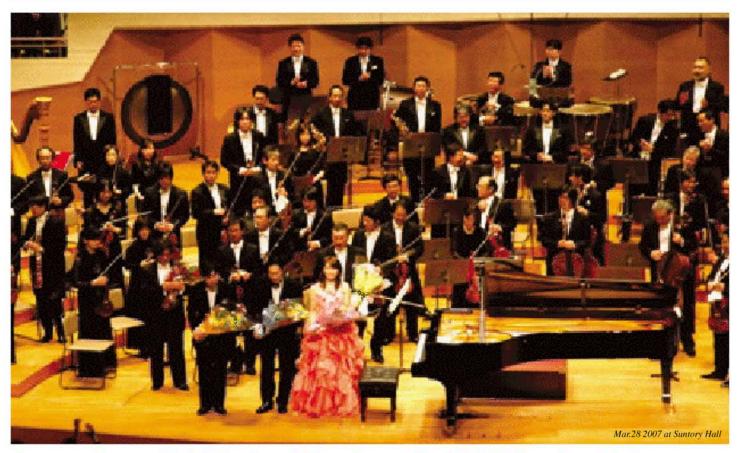
PTNA NEWS LETTER 8

The Piano Teachers' National Association of Japan, Incorporated by the Japanese Government

Gathering at PTNA's 40th Anniversary Events!

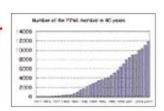


Concert at Suntory Hall, "Evening of Piano Concerti" with NHK Symphony Orchestra

An evening of three concerto performances was held at Suntory Hall, Tokyo in March. Celebrating the 40th year since establishment, a full audience of 2,000 gathered from all over the country. Three impressive pianists from the past five years: Shohei Sekimoto, Rina Sudo, and Ichiro Kaneko appeared as soloists. Sekimoto and Sudo participated in the PTNA Piano Competition since young age, and now successfully perform in international stages. 44 year-old Kaneko is a math teacher who follows a unique career, making his way from the Grand Muse (Amateur Division) to the Superior Grade and winning the Grand Prize. The concert was conducted by Kazumasa Watanabe, with the collaboration of the NHK Symphony Orchestra. The audience enjoyed masterpieces of Rachmaninoff, Liszt, and Ravel.

The transition of the number of PTNA member in the past 40 years!

A network of PTNA became more than 11,000 members and 300 offices and "stations" all over Japan.



National Liaison Conference Commemorating PTNA's 40th Anniversary

A large-scale liaison conference was held on March 29, 2007, a day after the 40th anniversary concert, at the big hall of Tokyo New Otani Hotel. Station office members, competition jury, STEP advisors as well as eager PTNA members gathered to this big

event from all over the country. Members enjoyed active discussions and events of introducing music activities, discussing in groups, and watching music films. A big exchange event of 600 PTNA members sat around the table at lunchtime.



Mar.29 2007 at Hotel New Otani

PTNA PIANO COMPETITION







This year's international Jury of the Final Round was as follows: Mikhail Voskresensky (Russia), Dominique Merlet (France), and Erik Tawaststjerna (Finland). From the preliminary through the finals, Karl=Andreas Kolly (Switzerland), Ken Hsieh (Canada, conductor), and Yoon Ju Oh (Korea) were also invited as guest jury.

Grand Prize Goes to Yuhi Ozaki

The PTNA Piano Competition has come to its 31st year. This year's Grand Prize Winner was 18 year-old Yuhi Ozaki, a freshman at Showa University of Music. A student of Fumiko Eguchi since early age, Yuhi first entered the B Grade of the PTNA Piano Competition in 1997. After experiencing C Grade and D Grade, he won the gold prize in the E Grade. Moreover, in 2002 he won the Silver Prize of the G Grade when he was only 14 years old. Yuhi was also the First Prize Winner in the B Category of the 2006 Etlingen International Competition in Germany. After five years of absence at PTNA, he attempted to challenge the Superior Grade. His mixture of width and sensitivity and amazing virtuoso lit up the audience, achieving a high praise from the jury. The Silver Prize went to Erika Hanada, and the Bronze Prize winner was Kaoru Jitsukawa, also winning the Audience Prize.

Yuhi Ozaki will be appearing at concerts in Italy, as well as concerto performances with the Tokyo City Philharmonic Orchestra and several recitals and guest performances throughout Japan.

Audience Fills the Concert Hall at the PTNA Piano Competition Superior Grade Finals



Yuhi Ozaki

Yuhi began playing the piano at the age of five. A Grand-Prix winner at the 31st PTNA Piano Competition Superior Grade, he has also won the First Prize and EMCY Prize at the 10th Ettlingen International Competition for Young Pianists and received a diploma at the 8th International Franz Liszt Piano Competition (Weimar). He has performed in many concerts throughout Japan and abroad including France, England, Germany, and U.S.A. and with orchestras including Baden-Badener Philharmonie and Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra. He is expecting more concerts in Japan, Italy and Slovenia in 2008.

His teachers include Fumiko Eguchi and Arie Vardi. He is currently studying at Hochschule fur Musik und Theater Hannover.

Grand Prize Winner, Yuhi Ozaki's Program at the Finals

#Solo

F.Liszt: "Apres une lecture du Dante -Fantasia quasi sonata "from "Annees de pelerinage Deuxieme annee, Italio"

A.Scriabin: Etude in C sharp minor, Op.2-1 A.Scriabin: 3 Etudes, Op.65-1 B dur,2.Cis dur,3.G dur S.Rachmaninoff: The Lilac, Op.21-5

S.Rachmaninoff: Polka de V.R.

N.Medtner: "Sonata Triad"(Three Sonatas) No.1 in A flat major, Op.11-1

R.Shchedrin: An Imitation of Albeniz Shohei Amimori: "Prelude"

(Original Composition for this competition by

Japanese composer)

#Concerto

S.Rachmaninoff: Rhapsody on a theme of Paganini, On 43

A Greatest Number of 39,067 Participants in 2007!

A total number of 39.067 pianists participated in this year's PTNA Piano Competition. Especially many participated in the A1 ~C Grade (ages seven to eleven), which proves the solid base of the pyramid. As the grades rise to D, E, and F, many yearn for the highest Superior Grade. There are also a big number of contestants in the Grand Muse Division, the competition for amateurs. PTNA Piano Competition is open for three important pillars, "artists", "amateurs", and "students"

The Importance of "Competition" Introduced in Music Journals



Let's go to the competition- Arrival of the "Audience 2.0" erav from Bravo Magazine, August issue



"Creating the society" piano competitions and decreasing number of childrenÅvfrom Mostly Classic Magazine, November issue

The PTNA Piano Competition was introduced in several music magazines from different angles. The article of Mostly Classic magazine was titled "Why is the number of contestants increasing while the number of children is decreasing?" introducing the "now" of classical music as a social phenomenon. The article featured the words of Seikoh Fukuda (CEO of PTNA) "Competition used to be just a rivalry event, but as piano teachers aim for a higher quality of education, it is now recognized as a way of human development." The Article of Bravo magazine focused on PTNA's "Audience Prize". This prize enables the audience to show one's impressions and opinions toward the contestant rather than just sitting back and listening. This two-way exchange was called "Audience 2.0", referring to "Web 2.0". The article also commented on the fact that the money is allocated out of the entrance fee, stating "This attempt of spiritual support to actual support may be a good lead to spreading patronage concerts in Japan, which is already common in other

A High School Student Wins the 2007 New Composition Awards

PTNA has put great importance into promoting Japanese compositions since establishment. The PTNA Piano Competition seeks new compositions by Japanese composers every year from the general public. This year, 162 compositions were brought into PTNA, and seven pieces were selected as requirement pieces in each grade. For the superior grade, high school student Shohei Amimori became the youngest composer to win the New Composition Award.

17-year-old Matthew Ro Wins the 3rd Yasuko Fukuda Prize

The 3rd Yasuko Fukuda Prize Auditions were held from August 28 to 30, following the competition. This scholarship audition is held every other year, and nine young talents under the age of 18 compete for a scholarship of 1 million yen. Established by the last will of late Yasuko Fukuda, the founder of PTNA, this year's international jury consisted of 3 renowned professors, Dominique Merlet, Piotr Paleczny, and Mikhail Voskresenski. After two days of lessons and a public performance, 17-year-old Matthew Ro became the 2007 prizewinner. Other laureates include Kaoru Jitsukawa (second prize), Marin Yamada (third prize), and Mai Koshio (fouth prize).



Matthew Ro and S.Fukuda



P.Paleczny



M. Voskresenski



D Merlet

Chamber Music Opportunities for Young Pianists

Matthew Ro will be performing chamber music next March as one of the laureate concerts. He will be collaborating with Fuminori Shinozaki, NHK Symphony Orchestra concertmaster, and Hiroshi Kikoshi, principal cellist of NHK Symphony Orchestra. This will be a precious opportunity for Matthew to perform chamber music with renowned professionals.



Yasuko Fukuda Award Winners Succeed!

Follow-up lessons by seasoned professors are held every year for the previous Yasuko Fukuda Award winners. For this year, Prof. Lee Kum Sing taught masterclasses at TO-ON Hall in September. Keisuke Tsushima, Kaoru Jitsukawa, Arisa Sakai, Akihiro Sakiya, and Shohei Sekimoto participated in the masterclass, followed by a exchange reception party afterwards.

YASUKO FUKUDA PRIZE

New Members of the Board of Trustees





K.Terawaki



Y.Ninomiya

The 45th general meeting was held in June, and eight new board members were announced.

Newly appointed members:

Vice Chairperson: Yuko Ninomiya (director of the Competition Committee), Board of Trustees: Naoto Otomo (conductor), Shigeaki Saegusa (composer), Akiyoshi Sako (pianist), Hideo Sugiura (director of the Station Development Committee), Ken Terawaki (former Minister of Education and Culture), Takashi Takaragi (inspector), Mutsuko Tozawa (executive officer)

Interview to prof Yuko Ninomiya

-Regarding the Superior Grade and 30 years of PTNA Competitions?

20 years ago, nobody dared to challenge the higher grades. So I recall Madame Yasuko Fukuda shedding tears of joy when talented pianists started to appear in the G Grade. At that time, a talented young pianist would suddenly appear in the finals, whereas now many talents grow within PTNA from young age. Nowadays, piano teachers study very earnestly, and many children participate from a very early stage. Shohei Sekimoto (winner of the 2003 Superior Grade) is a fine example. His encounter with PTNA Piano Competition was when he was a fourth grader, winning the Gold Prize in the B Grade. Fourth grade was the age limit for B Grade, so he was actually one of the older competitors. Never skipping any grades, he made his way through C, D, E F, and G... and finally won the Grand Prize of the Superior Grade in 2003.

-What is Important for the Next Generation?

Starting from 2006, the final round is with the orchestra. Playing with an orchestra means a lot. Participants will find a special feeling toward the competition, and I think this is a very important factor for raising the level of PTNA. I would also like to point out that "technical skills" -fast fingers- is not the most important thing in the world. Harmony, color, and musicality are just as important. These matters cannot be taught suddenly from a certain age, so when teaching children, teachers should focus on one of the most essential things; how to play a nice "forte" and "piano" sound without the tension of the arms. Listening to good quality of music from young age is also a great influence on one's musical career. One cannot play good quality of music without a good ear. The soil must be rich to become a fine musician.

PTNA PIANO STEP

Expanding Variety of Projects!

"Popular Arrange STEP", Feb.4 2007

This is a project to play one's favorite song like classics, nursery rhymes, folk songs, etc. by popular arrangements, Some participated by the self-made arrangements, and others

were by duo, ensemble with another instruments etc. Moreover, three self-made arrangement works were introduced in "Musse" (on-demand music score selling service), and are to be published.



"Mozart STEP", Feb.12 2007

An official website of 300 nationwide PTNA branch Station offices was launched in December. One can obtain information regarding the competition, STEP concerts, seminars and concerts in the local area. A linked page will be posted in the PTNA website when a web log is updated. The website contributes to further communication in the local area.



"Analyse STEP", Mar.5 2007

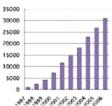
This is a project of getting advice to their performance with an analyse score. The participant submitted one's analyse score beforehand and was projected onto screen on stage while performance.

Various analyses were announced.



Total of 31,118 participants joined to PTNA Piano STEP

STEP offers a flexible style of selecting pieces from more than 3,000 music repertoires, and one can choose evaluation styles of his or her choice. Each performance comes with a hand-written comment sheet from STEP Advisors.



Extension of STEP Station Activities

The STEP station develops its activities not only holding the STEP execution secretariat but also various reagional activities. Under the cooperation with "School Class Concert" which is the spreading project of PTNA, teachers at the STEP station in Matudo city visited the local school and gave a class concert with the 45 min. program of piano duo, solo, body percussions, and chorus with students.



In Katsushika Ward, Tokyo, Shoko Sugitani (pianist and station representative) develops the future regional activities in cooperation with the public hall in the local regions

For Kids! Show Case of Mini-Concerts

"PTNA Summer Piano Lecture Festival" was held this August at Hokutopia Tsutsuji Hall, Tokyo. This two-day, workshop-style concert consisted of popular lecture concerts of nationwide PTNA Step Concerts, and 24 groups performed a 15-minute program on stage. Over 1,200 children and parents enjoyed the variety of workshops and performances of the piano.



Active PTNA Stations!

In 2007, PTNA Piano Step were held in 350 venue and PTNA Piano Seminar were held in 200 venue all over Japan by PTNA branches and stations.







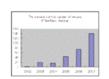
What's PTNA PIANO STEP?

Developed in 1997, this is a system that encourages the enjoyment of learning the piano. We offer a stage performance opportunity in which one can freely express themselves up on stage. STEP offers a flexible style of selecting pieces from more than 3,000 music repertoires, and one can choose evaluation styles of his or her choice. Each performance comes with a "STEP message", a hand-written comment sheet from STEP Advisors, who are experienced teachers selected from PTNA membership.

PTNA PIANO SEMINAR

Renewal! PTNA Piano Seminar throughout Japan

Starting from 2007, seminars have been taking an active part in PTNA branches and offices throughout the country. There is a full support system of carrying out the point in each seminar, such as the report system. PTNA supports the lifelong study of the piano teacher.





Passport for Teachers

Report System



Writing Reports



receiving the Certificate

Seminar for Teachers of view, such as introducing effective

From many different points of view, such as introducing effective ways of teaching and obtaining useful information, PTNA supports the studies of piano teachers as much as possible. PTNA Piano

Seminars are held in Tokyo three times a year. These seminars are directly connected to PTNA Piano Leadership Exams, and applicants are able to apply for these exams. In 2007, the following seminars were held in Tokyo.



"Tokyo Chamber Music Training"
Feb.10-1 special lecturer: Ichiro Nodaira(piano), Daiki

Shimizu(violin), Yohki Shinozaki(cello), Utami Kaneko(piano), Yasumi Taki(piano)

"PTNA Seminar vol.32, Basic level"
Apr.22 2007 Lecturer: Katsushige Sato"Ability of Solfege"/ Yoshiko Kurokawa"Body of piano playing" / Mariko Horie "Pedaling"

"PTNA Seminar vol.33, Middle level"
Sep.30 2007 Lecturer: Katsumi Tanaka "Charm of chamber music"/
Takako Inagaki "How to talk with students?" / Sonoko Hayashi
"gorigin of rich musical expression

"PTNA Seminar vol.34, Upper level" Jan.27 2008 Lecturer: Takako Takahashi / Gabriel Tacchino / Yuko Hisamoto



WEBSITE, OTHER'S

Active PTNA Organizations

Starting the "PTNA Community" Website

An official website of 300 nationwide PTNA branch Station offices was launched in December. One can obtain information regarding

the competition, STEP concerts, seminars and concerts in the local area. A linked page will be posted in the PTNA website when a web log is updated. The website contributes to further communication in the local area.



The PTNA Piano Website Contributes to Expanding Music www.piano.or.jp

The PTNA Internet website started back in 1997, rapidly increasing its access numbers every year. The recent access numbers of the PTNA website has an average of 3,000,000PV~4,000,000PV every month. PTNA is seeking further expansion by offering interesting contents, not only functioning for the introduction of the organization, but also to promote the piano as one large culture.



More than 12,000 Pieces in the Piano Repertoire Encyclopedia

This free internet encyclopedia has more than 12,639 pieces and 814 composers. Over 1,500 piano recordings, program notes and purchasing music scores ("Musse" Service) are combined in the website which anyone can enjoy. In December, PTNA started a mobile website service for cellular phone users. We also offer a free QR code service for piano concert ads supported by PTNA.

Rich Contents of Serial Articles

PTNA has a wide variety of serial articles, comments and video clips produced by pianists, musicologists, score collectors and piano lovers. Currently there are 25 different serial articles, such as "Revival of Forgotten Masterpieces" by Osamu Kanazawa, a composers series written by previous Grand Prize Winners (Haydn, Debussy, Chopin by Hitomi Maeyama, Ichiro Kaneko, and Noriko Sato), "19th Century Pianism" by musicologist Minoru Nishihara, international festival reports, and many others.

PTNA as Go-betweens - Finding Teachers and Collaborative Pianists



"Find Your Teacher" service is the biggest network in Japan introducing piano teachers and studios. All of the registration and introducing process is of no charge, and currently there are 5,000 teachers registered and 4,000 matches in a year.

"Find Your Pianist" is a free service starting last November, for arranging ensembles through the Internet, and nearly 100 pianists (all PTNA members) are registered. Many pianists are taking an active part in collaborating with instrumentalists and singers.

"Concert Events Calendar" and "PTNA Access Pass"



PTNA offers free information of concert listings in Japan, and approximately 100 concerts are posted every month. There is also a mobile search page. Starting from October, "PTNA Access Pass" system enables children enjoy concerts of renowned pianists such as Bronfman, Kobrin, Gavrylyuk, and Berezovsky for only 1,000 yen. (Intended for students who has appeared in PTNA stages in the last two years)

PTNA Members and Participators Succeeds Throughout the World

Tamura wins 1st Prize at Long-Thibaud!

-20 year-old Hibiki Tamura (Grand Prize Winner of 2002) wins the Long-Thibaud International Piano Competition in October



Other winners

- -Aika Dan becomes the absolute winner (Grand Prize and First Prize, no Second Prize) in the 14th Amadeus Mozart Piano Competition for Young Pianists (Czech) in February.
- -Masanori Murakami (first place winner of 2005 Grand Muse Y1 Category) wins 1st prize at the Paris International Amateur Piano Competition in April. Satoru Uetake (first place winner of 2005 Grand Muse B1 Category) also got the fifth prize.
- -Mai Koshio, Erika Yamamoto, and Miwa Hoyano became laureates of the Junior Division of Valsesia International Music Competition held in June.
- -Arisa Sakai was invited at the salon concert in Vancouver
- -Aika Dan won 1st prize at the 6th International Competition of Young Pianists "A STEP TOWARDS MASTERY" held in St. Petersburg, Russia. (Category A, ages eleven and younger)
- -Kensuke Ohta (first place winner of Grand Muse A1 Category) won the first prize in the 6th Rocky Mountain Amateur Piano Competition in August.
- -Yurie Umekawa, last year's winner of the International Competition for Young Pianists (Belgium), was invited by EPTA to perform in Luxemburg last September as one of her laureate concerts.
- -Natsumi Kuboyama (Gold Prize Winner of F Grade, 2006) received the audience prize in the 3rd Romania International Music Competition in September.
- -Masataka Goto (Grand Prize Winner in 2004) won the sixth prize in the 4th China International Piano Competition in October

2006 Grand Prize Winner Tours in Italy

2006 Grade Prize Winner Hitomi Maeyama made her tour debut in Italy and Germany in February, performing in several laureate concerts. Last December she performed Mozart's Piano Concerto No.20 with the Youth Orchestra in Manheim Germany, and this year she performed her first solo recital in Bologna, Italy.

Collaboration with TV and Films

- -Pianists such as Shohei Sekimoto, Duo Nakai, and Yoshikazu Jumei appeared on NHK broadcasting satellite program "Piano-Pia".
- -Hibiki Tamura and Yuhi Ozaki performed in Television Asahi's "Untitled Musicale" TV program.
- -Ayumi Iga and Yuhi Ozaki appeared in NHK television Premium 10's "The Piano- Welcome to the Splendid Wonderland".
- -Rieko Nezu (Silver Prize of the Superior Grade in 1995) was introduced in Belgium's broadcasting company RTBF-Musiq3 "l'Art de Piano".
- -PTNA supported a movie film "Tokyo Sonata" where Sonosuke Takao played the dubbing role of a pianist, and Hiroshi Kumagai coached actors for piano scenes.
- -PTNA helped the PR for two movie films "The Perfect World of Kai" and "My Little Pianist" (both about the piano) this summer, which was a big hit.

Important Awards

Hidehiko Arashino (director of PTNA) was awarded the 2007 Social Educational Achievement Award from the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology. Bin Ebisawa (director of PTNA, Head Chief of the New National Theater, Chief of Japan Mozart Research Institute, Chief of the Japanische Mozartgesellschaft, critic) was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal from the Government.

International Exchange Spreads

-"Bastien Forum" took place at Suntory Hall in March, an event for the PTNA's 40th Anniversary. Jane Bastien, author of the Bastien Method Series, attended the forum.

Web Reports of International Competitions – Queen Elizabeth International Competition, Long-Thibaud International Competition

- -Seikoh Fukuda, CEO of PTNA, visited Canada in June, and met the Vancouver Symphony and British Columbia Registered Music Teachers Association.
- -The Tokyo auditions of the Royal College of Music admission was held in November.
- -The Tokyo pre-auditions of the Junior and Young Artist Divisions of the Gina Bachauer International Competition are to be held in January of 2008.

Outreach Concerts in Public Spaces by PTNA Members



Mini-Concerts are held in Marunouchi Building and New Marunouchi Building, the landmark of Tokyo. Anyone can enjoy free classical music in a public area.

- -Mini-Concert series at the 35th floor of Marunouchi Building and the Atrium of New Marunouchi Building held every week.
- -Multi-area concerts connected with the La Folle Journée au JAPON Festival (May 3-6)Åyé ê^Åz -Marunouchi Cool Breeze Concert (August 17-26)
- -Christmas Event (December 23-24)
- -Chorus event of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony at the first floor of Marunouchi Building (December 31)







Final Round: 22nd-24th August, 2008 Tokyo

Grand Prior: I J000.090 Nen. Concerts in Japan and abroad



Perpose

Grade

Cromit Superior this tops limit;

Eligibility

Post price winners and further

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