

topics

3 Major Renewals on Teachers' Projects

1. Seminar

272 Teaching Seminars were held in the year 2008. Topics ranged from the introduction of basic piano pedagogy, to applied techniques of performance. It is an almost double increase from last year. This expansion is due to an entire system reform. To enhance their practical application in daily lessons after the seminars, participants were recommended to submit reports to the lecturers who, in return, gave it back to them with supplementary advice. Due to these interactive studies,



2,527 participants handed out reports in a year, 3.3 times per person on average.

Among the submitters, 30s - 50s generation holds the majority (of nearly 80%), while the 60s age group and higher also show active participation. Young piano teachers in their teens and 20s are also taking advantage of this two-way communicative learning system with senior teachers at the beginning of their professional career.

The following statistics also shows the spread of this learning style; 9 participants submitted reports at least 20 times, if not 27 times at the most !

above) A certificate which proves the completement of study in seminars.



Examination

PTNA Piano Teachers Examination is intended for those who are eager to examine their teaching skills both in theory and performance, for the excellence of the art of teaching. Certificates are provided for three levels (elementary, intermediate, advanced) and each requires three curriculums (1. performance 2. seminar report 3. music theory, harmonic analysis, music history, sight reading, and teaching demonstration).

The regulation is partly renewed this year, which is mainly oriented to young teachers or teachers-to-be. This is to facilitate their active involvement in teaching, as well as to support their career building from an early stage.

One of the major changes is the age of admission, which is shifted from age 20 to 18. Even first year university students can take serial pedagogical training, and obtain a certificate at each level they achieve.

Another change suggest that piano teachers require higher ability of performance; Semi-finalists in grade G & superieur (PTNA Piano competition) are exempted from the elementary level exam, which is extended from 3 years to 10 years.



left) Teachers' seminars

above) Teachers who have successfully completed all the levels of diploma in Piano Teachers Examination

right) Online network "PTNA Community"

Experienced teachers also may take advantage of this evaluation. One of the teachers in her 40's took the elementary exam in autumn 1999 and obtained an advanced diploma by completing all the curriculum in spring 2003. She testifies that it has encouraged her to review and supplement her practical teaching skills, as well as back up her confidence as a professional music teacher.

3. Online Community

"PTNA Community" is an online network platform designed for PTNA branch offices and stations all over Japan to share and exchange local information. Those 378 satellite bodies (as of Oct.2008), have individual website platforms to introduce their basic information; contact address, members, history, messages from representatives, daily activities and future events.

Once the web log is updated, a linked page is posted on the PTNA website (15,000 pv per day) so that everyone can see the activities of other branches and stations.

