

KOTARO FUKUMA

„A fabulous artist... and a prince among peers.“

– The Independent

Born in Tokyo, Kotaro Fukuma began learning piano at the age of five and has received many high awards in international competitions. In 2003, at the age of 20, Kotaro won both First Prize and the Chopin Prize at the 15th Cleveland International Piano Competition. Since then his concert career has developed on five continents (North and South America, Europe, Africa and Asia).

Kotaro has performed in major concert venues, including Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center, New York City; Wigmore Hall, London; Philharmonie and Konzerthaus, Berlin; Gewandhaus, Leipzig; Salle Gaveau and Salle Olivier Messiaen, Paris; Victoria Hall, Geneva; Auditorio Nacional, Madrid; Sala Mozart, Zaragoza; Forbidden City Concert Hall, Beijing; Oriental Center, Shanghai; and Suntory Hall and Opera City, Tokyo.

His performances with orchestras include the Cleveland Orchestra, Moscow Philharmonic, Israel Philharmonic, Finnish Radio Symphony, Dresden Philharmonic, Lille National Orchestra, Tonkünstler Orchestra, Japan Philharmonic and NHK Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of such conductors as Yuri Simonov, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Juanjo Mena, Asher Fisch, Hannu Lintu, Lawrence L. Smith, François-Xavier Roth, Jahja Ling, Mihhail Gerts and Kazuki Yamada.

Beginning of July 2016, with 24h-notice he stepped in for Nelson Freire to perform Brahms' Piano concerto n°2 with the Orchestre National du Capitole de Toulouse under Tugan Sokhiev.

Kotaro Fukuma has released twelve commercial CDs by the labels Naxos, ARS Produktion, Accustika, Editions Hortus, Esprit du Piano, DENON, Orpheus Classical; and has received critical acclaim in such music magazines as Gramophone, Diapason, American Music Records, Monde de la Musique, Classica, Bayern 4 Klassik and Classic Today.

He studied music at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris with Bruno Rigutto and Marie-Françoise Bucquet, then at the Universität der Künste Berlin with Klaus Hellwig and at the International Piano Academy Lake Como in Italy. He also has studied with several great masters of the piano, including Leon Fleisher, Mitsuko Uchida, Richard Goode, Alicia de Larrocha, Maria Joao Pires, Leslie Howard and Aldo Ciccolini. Kotaro Fukuma currently lives in Berlin.

www.kotarofukuma.com

(update: August 2017)