

Fumiko Shiraga

was born in Tokyo to musically educated parents. She started playing the piano at the age of three and moved to Germany at the age of six.

She was a student of Professor Detlef Kraus, Friedrich Wilhelm Schnurr and Vladimir Krainev. In 1995 she completed her studies in Hanover, achieving the highest distinction in her soloist examinations. Parallel to her final years of studies she was intensively taken care of by the Polish teacher Malgorzata Bator-Schreiber. Fumiko Shiraga has won numerous prizes in national and international competitions.

Fumiko Shiraga received much inspiration of artistic value by attending international master classes held by Nikita Magaloff, Yara Bernette, Jeremy Menuhin, Paul Badura-Skoda, Edith Picht-Axenfeld and John O'Connor (Fondazione Wilhelm Kempff/Positano).

Fumiko Shiraga played solo evenings, orchestra concerts and chamber music concerts in London, Budapest, Salzburg, Gstaad, Helsinki, Riga, Kiev, Istanbul, Beirut, San José, at the Schleswig Holstein Music Festival, at the Bremen Music Festival, the Mozart Festival Wuerzburg, the Rheingau Music Festival and the renowned Chopin Festival in Duszynki/Polen. She also gave concerts in the Herkulessaal in Munich, the Laeishalle in Hamburg, the Bruckner House Linz, the Casals Hall Tokyo and the great hall of the Tschaikowsky Conservatory in Moscow.

Amongst innumerable concerts in Germany she regularly played concerts for the recording of miscellaneous radio stations, such as NDR (Norddeutscher Rundfunk = northern Germany radio station), BR (Bayerischer Rundfunk = Bavarian radio station), SWR (Südwestrundfunk, south-west Germany radio station),

HR (Hessischer Rundfunk = Hesse radio).

Ever since 1996 she has played various concertos for the Swedish label BIS, where she caused furore worldwide with the series "Piano concertos in disguise". 1997 the Chopin concertos in the version for piano and string quintet were published and in 2000 the recording of the Beethoven concertos no. 1 & 2 followed in the same instrumentation. From 2003 until 2006 she recorded all Mozart concertos which Hummel had arranged for chamber music instrumentation (7 concertos). The magazine *Gramophone* (issue of April 2006) awarded the third recording (BIS-CD 1537) with "Editor's choice" and called Fumiko Shiraga's "enchanting play" a "Ringmaster of Ceremonies". The magazine *Piano News* (issue of February 2007) choose the CD 1567 as CD of the month.

In 2001 Fumiko Shiraga published world première recordings with the solo works of Anton Bruckner. The recordings were extremely positively discussed by the international press.

2009 Fumiko Shiraga played the piano concertos of Mendelssohn for the Swiss label Claves in the piano and the string quintet version.