



Friday 13th September 2024, 1.15pm

Yoko Sakakura (Piano)

Yoko Sakakura commenced her musical studies on the piano aged 5 and subsequently undertook an intensive music course between the ages 10 and 17 at Soai Music School for Children in Osaka, Japan. Following her graduation from Kyoto Women's University, she was a finalist at the annual Sakai Young Musicians Concert in Osaka gaining third prize. She has since performed as a solo pianist as well as accompanist with singers and instrumentalists at concerts and competitions in Japan and Europe.



After the graduation of university, Yoko's piano performances came to the attention of Professor Norman Shetler, now a professor at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna and during her subsequent studies with him she specialized in the works of Robert Schumann. She also accompanied Japanese songs and German Lieder with a number of professional artists in Japan. As a collaborative pianist, she attended the masterclass in Bolzano, Italy for Belcanto Opera and Somatics with Hiroko Kawai and Luca Gorla.

In addition to her appearances and performances as a pianist, Yoko taught music for 10 years at secondary schools in Japan where the experiences of interacting with numerous enthusiastic and passionate students has she says, helped her to understand music and its relationship with people much deeper and also made her more open minded and receptive to other styles.

Following her move to the U.K. in 2017, Yoko continued her studies and was subsequently awarded a Diploma in Piano Performance from The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music (Dip-ABRSM) and a licentiate for music performance and diploma (LTCL) from Trinity College, London. Yoko resumed her performance in venues. Recent highlights include at Downing College Master's Lodge Cambridge University, Downing Place United Reformed Church, St Paul's Church, Bedford and Croydon Minster.