

Yoko Hirota, Pianist (www.yokohirota.com)

Having been praised by the press as “*precise and keenly projective*” and demonstrating “*the highest level of proficiency*,” Japanese-Canadian pianist **Yoko Hirota** is considered one of the leading interpreters of contemporary piano repertory of her generation.

Yoko received her doctoral degree in piano performance under **Louis-Philippe Pelletier** at McGill University. Grants from the **Canada Council for the Arts** allowed her to study in Europe with **Gabor Eckhardt** in Hungary, **Herbert Henck** in Germany, and **Florent Boffard** in France.

Ms. Hirota is a strong advocate of contemporary music and appeared in recitals including: **New Music Concerts** (Toronto), **Discovery Series** (Calgary), **Windsor Canadian Music Festival** (Windsor), **Domaine Forget International Music Festival**, **Innovations en concert** (Montreal), the **Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival**, **Friday Evenings at the Rolston** (Banff), and **Chapelle Historique du Bon Pasteur** (Montreal). Yoko was invited by the **Nouvel Ensemble Moderne** (NEM) to Canadian premiere the challenging work, *Joy* (for 23 musicians and tape), by **Magnus Lindberg**. The **Montreal Gazette** gave special recognition of her performance.

Yoko Hirota’s performances were broadcast on **Société Radio-Canada**, and she has received prestigious grants from the **Ontario Arts Council** and the **Canada Council for the Arts**. At the 1996 **Clara Liechtenstein Piano Competition** (Montreal), a Special Mention Prize was especially created to distinguish her excellence in the interpretation of 20th century repertory. In 2013 she was invited to perform at **Le 16e Gala des prix Opus**.

Yoko released 3 solo piano CDs, most recently “*Voces Boreales*” (Centrediscs), made possible through grants from the **Ontario Arts Council**, and has received rave reviews from **Wholenote**, **Musical Toronto**, and **The Globe and Mail**.

Ms. Hirota is Professor of Piano at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario, and co-founder and co-artistic director of **5-Penny New Music Concerts**. *Management for Ms. Hirota: Michael Gerard Management Group* –www.mgmg.ca.