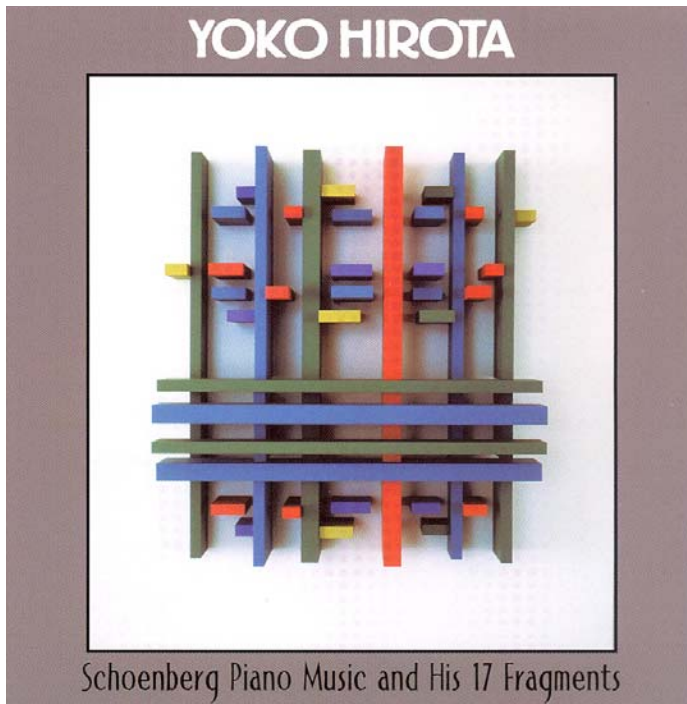


Critical Praise for Yoko Hirota's Debut Solo Piano Recording

Schoenberg Piano Music and His 17 Fragments. **Yoko Hirota, piano.**

Phoenix Records PHX65122 (2005)

(Online orders: <http://www.phoenixrecordsltd.com>)



Many of **Arnold Schoenberg's** piano works were written at important turning points in his compositional career. The *Three Piano Pieces* op. 11 (1909) demonstrate his early use of free atonality; the *Five Piano Pieces* op. 23 and the *Suite for Piano* op. 25 (both completed in 1923) were written as he was developing his twelve-tone system and demonstrate its earliest applications. As a body of work, this music reveals much about Schoenberg's ideas and approaches. This is especially apparent in this recent recording by **Yoko Hirota**. The CD includes performances of the *Three Piano Pieces op. 11*, the *Five Pieces op. 23*, the *Two Piano Pieces op. 33a* and *op. 33b* and the *first Canadian performance of the Seventeen Fragments*. (J. Drew Stephen)

“The last of Arnold Schoenberg’s Fragments for Piano is a pensive, expressive miniature that does its work in scarcely a minute.”

(The Globe and Mail, Toronto [Essential Tracks])

“This recording by the Japanese-Canadian pianist Yoko Hirota, . . . precise and keenly projective performances.”

(Whole Note Magazine, Toronto)

“Hiroka’s performance of this (Schoenberg’s) music is bold and thoughtful. Her interest in the composer’s use of timbre and sonority is easily apparent in her playing. There is careful attention to nuance, to articulation, and a wonderful range of sonorous effects in the music.”

(CAML Review, Vol 34, No 3, 2006)