



JAPAN-KOREA INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

Piano Masterclass

2027



Hwang Moonhee



Rintaro Akamatsu

*Two nations whose passion for the piano reaches out to the world now come together in Sanda-City, Hyogo.
Professors and students from Japan and Korea gather for three days of international piano masterclasses,
followed by a closing concert, a professors' concert and a reception.
Make this musical exchange across borders a new page in your own musical life.*

DATES

January 8 (Fri) – 10 (Sun), 2027

VENUE

Sanda-City, Hyogo, Japan

FACULTY

Prof. Hwang Moonhee **Prof. Akamatsu Rintaro**
Sejong University, Korea Osaka College of Music, Japan

INTERPRETER

Song Hwayoung
Japanese ⇄ Korean

Co-organized by Japan Liszt Piano Academy, Hirase Gakki

Managed by PARADE Inc.

In cooperation with Classic Korea



■ Schedule

Jan. 8 (Fri)	Masterclass by Prof. Akamatsu Rintaro (for Korean and other international participants)
Jan. 9 (Sat)	Masterclass by Prof. Hwang Moonhee (for Japanese and Korean participants)
Jan. 10 (Sun)	Closing Concert & Professors' Concert, Reception

■ Venues



MASTERCLASS

Hirase Gakki
Music Salon “ami”



PRACTICE

Hirase Gakki
Sanda Center



CONCERT

Sanda City Cultural Center
Satonone Hall, Rehearsal Room

Scan the QR codes to open each venue in Google Maps.

■ Eligibility

- No age limit
- Applicants must be able to prepare repertoire at a level suitable for both the lesson and the concert
- Playing from memory is preferred but not required

■ Participation Fee

¥60,000 (tax included) Please pay on site on the day of the event.

The fee includes all of the following:

Masterclass lessons	One 45-minute lesson with Prof. Hwang Moonhee (Korean / English) One 60-minute lesson with Prof. Akamatsu Rintaro (English)
Auditing	Free auditing of the masterclasses on both days
Interpretation	Korean ⇄ Japanese interpretation during lessons
Practice rooms	Available before and after your lessons (times by arrangement)
Concert	Performance in the Closing Concert (up to 15 minutes); Prof. Akamatsu Rintaro attends the rehearsal and gives brief advice
Reception	A dinner after the concert for participants and faculty to get to know one another

■ How to Apply



Scan the QR code to open the application form and fill in the required information.

Deadline

Sunday, December 6, 2026

■ Recommended Hotel



Hotel Melxe

11-1 Ekimae-cho, Sanda-City,
Hyogo 669-1528

5-minute walk from JR Sanda Station

Tel. +81-79-563-0005

hotel-melxe.jp



Prof. Hwang Moonhee

Intellect refines the sound; sensibility opens up the music.

Pianist Hwang Moonhee is highly acclaimed for performances that draw out the beauty of melody with a lyrical tone and a resilient, buoyant sound, uniting finely controlled technique with mature musicianship. After graduating from Yewon School and Seoul Arts High School, she moved to the United States, where she earned her Bachelor of Music (BM) summa cum laude from Michigan State University and completed her Master of Music (MM) and Professional Studies (PS) at the Manhattan School of Music in New York. She then received her Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) from Boston University with the dissertation “A Performance Analysis of Claude Debussy’s *Douze Études, Livre II*.”

She further broadened her musical experience by performing at international music festivals, masterclasses and piano pedagogy conferences in the United States, the United Kingdom, Germany, Poland and Austria.

She was a prizewinner at the IBLA Grand Prize International Competition in Italy, won the Michigan MTNA Competition and first prize at the New York International Solo Competition, and received a special award at the Artists International Auditions. She made her New York debut at Carnegie’s Weill Recital Hall in April 2001 and returned there in July 2018 for a highly successful recital that forged a warm bond with New York audiences. As a soloist in Korea she has appeared with the Chuncheon City Symphony Orchestra (Chuncheon Culture & Arts Center), Pan Asia Philharmonia (Incheon Culture & Arts Center, Grand Theater), Seoul Academy Ensemble (Seoul Arts Center, IBK Hall) and the Seoul Symphony Orchestra (Seoul Arts Center, Concert Hall). Abroad she has been invited to perform with orchestras across Europe, including the Sofia Philharmonic and Pleven Philharmonic (Bulgaria), the Janáček Philharmonic (Czech Republic), the State Hermitage Orchestra (Russia) and the Opole Philharmonic (Poland). Under contract with the Hungarian label Fidelio, she released an album of Beethoven’s Piano Concerto No. 3 and solo works by Chopin and Debussy in Korea, Hungary and the United States, celebrated with a release recital at the Seoul Arts Center Recital Hall. She has also given invited performances at Merkin Hall, Yamaha Hall and the “Strad for Lunch” series at WMP Concert Hall in Manhattan, the Steinway Gallery in New Jersey, the German Cultural Center and Steinway Hall in Boston, Peter Hall in Pennsylvania, and “An Evening of Korea–China Cultural Exchange” in Beijing, establishing herself as an artist of both intellect and sensibility. Since 2017 she has given an annual recital in her “Music Stroll” series, sharing a wide-ranging repertoire with her audiences. Drawn to early music, she has also studied the harpsichord, obtained Korea’s highest-level harpsichord performer qualification, and performed at the Korea Baroque Music Festival.

As a chamber musician she has given duo recitals with violinist Thomas Tomaszewski, concertmaster of the Deutsche Oper Berlin, pianist Vincent de Vries, and her brother, violinist Hwang Seungbin, and formed Trio Estella, which has been invited to perform at the Perigee Hall lunch concerts and the Saturday concerts of the Flaum Musical Instrument Museum. She has also appeared in the Classic Busker performances of the Seoul Arts Center’s “SAC Festa”; “Harmony,” in which teachers and students perform together; Menos Ensemble’s “Film Meets Classical” (KT Chamber Hall); summer lecture-concerts for young people (Mapo Art Center Art Hall MAC, Youngsan Art Hall); “Sharing Love” concerts for people with disabilities and multicultural families (National Assembly Memorial Hall); regular concerts of the Michigan Piano Camerata; talent-sharing concerts at the Seoul Museum of History; year-end concerts at the Hwajeong Museum; and the Monday Empathy Concerts at Seoul National University of Science and Technology — continually reaching out to the public alongside artists from Korea and abroad.

As an educator she taught at Moravian University in Pennsylvania. After returning to Korea she served as adjunct professor at Anyang University and as a lecturer at Sangmyung University, Gachon University and its graduate school, and the Global Future Education Institute. In 2024 she received the New Korean Award (Education) presented by *Sisa Today*. She is currently a professor in the Department of Music at the Graduate School of Convergence Arts, Sejong University, where she is dedicated to nurturing the next generation of musicians.

Prof. Akamatsu Rintaro

A professor who has made music across the world, face to face with your sound.

Rintaro Akamatsu began his career as a concert pianist in earnest after winning third prize at the 2000 Clara Schumann International Piano Competition, where the eminent music critic Joachim Kaiser described him on German television (ZDF) as “intelligent and talented.”

He began the piano and violin at the age of two and the cello at six. Performing from early childhood, he appeared on television at five in programs presented by Minoru Ozone and Yasushi Akutagawa, and at ten performed Mozart’s Piano Concerto No. 21 with his own cadenzas. In 1990 he won the All Japan Student Music Competition. After graduating from Kobe University, he earned the Diplôme Supérieur d’Exécution in both piano and chamber music at the École Normale de Musique de Paris by unanimous decision of the jury (in chamber music, with full marks from every juror), and has won more than ten prizes at international competitions. He studied piano with Akiko Motoyoshi, Reiko Kumagai, Mikhail Voskresensky, France Clidat, Jean Micault, György Nádor and Zoltán Kocsis, and chamber music with Nina Patarcec and Christian Ivaldi.

In addition to major halls throughout Japan, he has performed in the United States, Russia, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Austria, Hungary, Poland, Korea, Taiwan, Vietnam and Colombia, and is frequently invited to music festivals, international competitions and masterclasses across Europe and Asia. He has performed under conductors including Marc Andrae, András Deák, Mirosław Błaszczyk, Taras Demchyshyn, Christian Schulz, Yuri Nitta, Koki Tezuka, Shunsaku Tsutsumi, Tomomi Nishimoto and Kazufumi Yamashita, with orchestras such as the Düsseldorf Symphony Orchestra, the Danube Symphony Orchestra, the Silesian Philharmonic, the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, the Royal Metropolitan Orchestra and the Royal Chamber Orchestra.

His albums on King International — *Two Domenicos*, *Piazzolla’s Angel*, *And the Bells Ring*, *Homage to the Inventions*, *Burgmüller 25 & 18 Études*, *Lascia ch’io pianga*, *Dedicated to Clara* and *Sinfonia: Resonating Together* — have frequently been chosen as Special Selection, Semi-Special Selection or Recommended discs by *Record Geijutsu*. He writes extensively for newspapers and magazines; his books include *Rintaro Akamatsu: Like a Rainbow* (Dowa Shoin), the Chopin and Beethoven volumes of *Play Classical Piano with Confidence in Three Years* (Rittor Music), and *Bach’s Inventions & Sinfonias Explained: How to Play, How to Teach* (Ongaku no Tomo Sha).

He is currently Professor at Osaka College of Music and its Graduate School; Visiting Professor at Sensoku Gakuen College of Music, Utsunomiya Junior College and Heisei College of Music; Artistic Director of the Budapest International Piano Masterclass & Festival; and Ambassador for Casio Computer Co., Ltd.

Every summer he teaches masterclasses at the Talent Music Summer Courses in Italy and the Euro Arts Academy in Poland. In 2025 he gave a concert and masterclasses and served on the jury of the Vietnam International Piano Competition & Festival, and, as part of events marking the 60th anniversary of the normalization of Japan–Korea diplomatic relations, was invited to give masterclasses at Seoul National University of Education in June and at Sejong University in September. In 2026 he has again been invited for masterclasses in Seoul by Classic Korea, as well as by the Crescendo International Festival & Competition in Hanoi, Vietnam. Recitals are scheduled in February 2027 at the Seoul Arts Center Recital Hall, in March in Budapest (Italian Cultural Institute and other venues), and in July in Hanoi.

Official website: rintaro-akamatsu.com



INTERPRETER Song Hwayoung

Graduated at the top of her class from the Faculty of Music, Kyoto City University of Arts, receiving the Faculty of Music Prize and the Kyoto Music Association Prize. After completing her master’s degree at the same university, she completed the highest performance program at the École Normale de Musique de Paris. She studied with renowned pianists from many countries, continued her training across Europe, and has won numerous prizes at competitions in Japan and abroad. Her activities include a recital at Salle Cortot (Paris), Bösendorfer new-model presentations and music lectures, lecture-performances at universities, and performances with distinguished musicians including B. Bowman. She has given a public recording at NHK Osaka Hall (FM broadcast) as a sister piano duo, recorded a CD with the Japan–China–Korea friendship trio “Ni-Chu-Kan,” and appeared in many other concerts. As pianist at a subscription concert of the Yahyang Woodwind Quintet, she performed Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue*. She has also given premieres of new works, appeared at international contemporary music festivals and in the subscription concerts of contemporary music groups, and performed collaborative works from the composition and conducting classes of Kyoto City University of Arts with its orchestra. She is official accompanist of the Kyoto French Music Academy and an adjudicator for the national finals of the Japan Classical Music Competition. Formerly a part-time lecturer at Shitennoji University and Kyoto City University of Arts, she currently teaches piano part-time at Osaka Prefectural Yuhigaoka High School, Osaka University of Comprehensive Children Education and Tokiwakai Gakuen University, and runs the Song Piano School.