

Satoko Kato, Pianist

Born in Kobe, Japan, Satoko Kato completed her piano studies at the Osaka Academy of Music before leaving in 2000 to specialise in Lied accompaniment and chamber music during further studies at the Amsterdam Conservatory. During this time, she attended The International Holland Music Sessions with a cellist duo partner and went on to participate in numerous masterclasses with celebrated singers and song accompanists such as Udo Reinemann, Graham Johnson, Rudolf Jansen, Roger Vignoles, Konrad Richter and Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau. She further explored the Lied repertoire during studies with Hartmut Höll at the Zurich University of the Arts where she obtained her performance diploma with distinction.

Satoko Kato collaborates with many different singers and chamber music partners and performs regularly in Switzerland and abroad at venues such as: Amsterdam Concertgebouw (2003, 2005), Pau Casals Hall Barcelona (2005), Tokyo Bunka Kaikan (2009), KKL Lucerne (2010) and at the Melsin International Music Festival in Turkey (2010). She regularly concertises with the tenor Raphaël Favre at various festivals and in radio appearances.

Satoko Kato was awarded prizes at the Japan Classical Music Competition in Tokyo (1992) and the North London Piano Competition (2000). Her 2013 Tokyo song recital with the soprano Ulla Westvik was proclaimed second best concert of the year by the specialist music magazine «Ongakunotomo».

She regularly accompanies for competitions and masterclasses, participates in opera projects and is accompanist for various vocal classes at the Zurich University of the Arts (collaborating in particular with Kathrin Graf since 2004). In Paris in 2007, she reached the final of the «Concours international de Chant-Piano Nadia et Lili Boulanger» and her duo was awarded the prize for the best performance of a contemporary work.

She has organised the following events in Switzerland and in Japan: a song recital series at the Osaka College of Music Opera House (2010), two concert tours in 2012 and 2014 and the «Evolution Concert Series» in Osaka's Phoenix Hall (2014) with the baritone Niklaus Kost. Since 2010, Satoko Kato is artistic director of the «Musik am Ritterweg» recital series in Sarnen. She teaches at the Zurich Cantonal Secondary School for Adults and at the Kalaidos Music Academy. She also teaches Lied courses in Kloster Engelberg and is a guest lecturer at the Osaka College of Music.