

Yoko Hirota, Pianist



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.

After undergraduate and graduate studies at the State University of New York in Buffalo, Ms. Hirota obtained her doctoral degree in piano performance at McGill University (1999) where she pursued her commitment to contemporary piano literature with the prominent Canadian pianist and pedagogue, **Louis-Philippe Pelletier**.

Ms. Hirota is a strong advocate of contemporary music, in particular music by Canadian composers. She has performed in solo and chamber recitals across North America and has been the guest soloist with orchestras including the world premiere of “*Oiseau de Givre*” a concerto written for her by Canadian composer, **Robert Lemay**. Her excellence in contemporary music interpretation is reflected in the many awards she has received and the many broadcasts of her performances on **Société Radio-Canada**.

Ms. Hirota’s professional activities also include recordings. Her first CD, “*The Piano Music of Arnold Schoenberg with 17 Fragments*,” was released to critical acclaim and was listed as one of Essential Tracks by **The Globe and Mail**. Her latest CD “*Small is Beautiful: Miniature Piano Pieces*”, made possible through funding from the **Canada Council for the Arts** and **Ontario Arts Council**, was released in 2009.

Yoko Hirota is Professor of Piano and Chair of the Music Department at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario, and co-founder and co-artistic director of **5-Penny New Music Concerts**.

*For more information please visit: www.yokohirota.com and www.5pennynewmusic.ca.
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