

Nariaki Sugiura, piano

"Most Sensitive Touch on the Piano", "Rigueur, Passion and Discipline of an Old Samurai" music critics raved about his solo performance in Europe. International concert artist Nariaki Sugiura continually gives recitals and concerto performances in the U.S., Europe and Asia. His performance was featured at the prestigious concert halls including Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Shenzhen Concert Hall (China), Ferenc Liszt Music Academy Recital Hall (Hungary), Daejeon Arts and Cultural Center Hall (South Korea), Manoel Theater (Malta), Kioi Hall (Japan), Museo de Arte (Puerto Rico). He has performed piano concertos with Greater Grand Forks Symphony Orchestra, Bismarck-Mandan Symphony Orchestra, UND Chamber Orchestra and many others. His arrangements for chamber ensembles and piano for 6-hands have been frequently performed, and he has conducted his large ensemble arrangements in Asia.

Devoted in teaching, Nariaki has emerged to be one of the leading piano pedagogues of his generation. He has given piano classes at numerous institutions such as Civico Istituto Musicale "V. Baravalle" (Italy), Gheorghe Dima Music Academy (Romania), Xinghai Conservatory of Music (China), Ewha Womans University and Sunhwa Arts High School, (South Korea), Universitas Pelita Harapan (Indonesia), St. Paul's College (Hong Kong), University of Denver, and many other music institutions around the world. Currently he is assistant professor of piano and collaborative piano at University of North Dakota, meantime holding visiting faculty positions at East China Normal University, and Jiangyin Royal Piano Art in China. Previously, he has taught at DePauw University, Indiana University and Lamont Summer Pre-College Music Academy in Denver. While he was at Indiana University, he worked for legendary cellist/pedagogue Janos Starker as a staff accompanist. He has been an adjudicator for many national and international piano competitions in the US and Asia.

Nariaki is an artist featured on eight CD recordings, including Klavier Records, Eroica Classical Recordings, T. K. Music Productions. His performances have been featured on TV and radio broadcast nationally and internationally. Active as an editor, his editions of chamber music scores are published by Ludwig Masters Music Publications.

A native of Japan, Nariaki began piano study with his mother at age five. Under the tutelage of Michel Block and Shigeo Neriki, he received Masters and Doctor of Music in Piano Performance from Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Other prominent teachers include Alicia de Larrocha, Friedrich Schurr, and Leonard Hokanson. Numerous national and international competitions have awarded Nariaki prizes, including the 1999 and 2000 Indianapolis Matinee Musicale Competition Top Prizes. He was laureate of the 1993 National Music Competition in Tokyo and of the Annual Competition of Music from Spain and Latin America in 1999.