

REVIEWS

Solo

"Thrilling, inspirational performance.... Unlike some celebrated names, Sekino displayed complete engagement with the [Rachmaninoff Third] concerto's ripely romantic heart, bringing spirited freshness and enthusiasm to this surging music. ...Time and again, Sekino illuminated familiar passages, as with her quicksilver cadenzas and the steady cumulative acceleration in the breathless closing bars. The Intermezzo was especially inspired, with an inner glow in the ruminative pages and a nicely playful touch in the scherzando section."

— **Lawrence A. Johnson, *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*, Fort Lauderdale, FL**

"Sometimes at piano competitions it happens that the audience doesn't agree with the jurors' decisions. Well, last night at the finals of the advanced division of the 7th Annual International Russian Music Piano Competition, it was clear to both the jurors and the audience that Yukiko Sekino, 29, from Japan, residing in Miami Beach, Florida, was the clear and resounding winner. She blazed her way through the Rachmaninoff Third Concerto like a seasoned master and displayed equal amounts of virtuosity and poetry. Always in command, she played millions of notes, but made sense of them and convinced us that she loved and respected this great concerto. In the first movement she chose the more difficult of the two original cadenzas and managed to keep it from getting out of control, in the second movement, she charmed us with her expressive playing, and in the final movement, she pulled out all the stops and brought the piece to a brilliant and satisfying conclusion"

— **Lyn Bronson, *Peninsula Reviews*, Carmel, CA**

"Elegance of line, leaping energy...her playing has life and sophistication"

— **Richard Scheinin, *Mercury News*, San Jose, CA**

Chamber Music

"Yuga Cohler and Karina Canellakis led a strong rendition [of Elliott Carter's Double Concerto for Harpsichord and Piano] that illuminated the various intricacies, with the tricky keyboard parts deftly played by Daniel Pesca on harpsichord and Yukiko Sekino on piano."

— **Vivien Schweitzer, *The New York Times*, New York, NY**

"[Corey] Cerovsek's bravura performance was matched by the sensitive pianism of Yukiko Sekino. In the final movement [of Chausson's Concerto for Violin, Piano, and String Quartet], her digital dexterity was strikingly impressive in wide-ranging octaves that rang the house."

— **Lawrence Budmen, *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*, Fort Lauderdale, FL**

"The [Bright Sheng] Piano Trio was exquisitely played by violinist Yoo-Sun Park, cellist Milena Mateeva, and pianist Yukiko Sekino"

— **Richard Dyer, *The Boston Globe*, Boston, MA**

Orchestra

"Yukiko Sekino dazzled in the bravura piano part [of Stravinsky's *Petrouchka*], the composer's musical personification of the puppet Petrouchka. (Indeed the keyboard writing suggests a full fledged concerto at times.) Sekino's digital agility and subtle musicianship was often stunning"

— **Lawrence Budmen, *Entertainment New & Views*, Miami, FL**