



# Meet the performers

Pianist **Akiko Tsukamoto** is an active soloist and collaborator in chamber music and piano duos. Born in Nagasaki, Japan, she graduated from the Toho Gakuen School of Music and moved to the U.S. in 1999 to attend the Yale University School of Music. Akiko is also a certified teacher of the Alexander Technique. Currently, she maintains a private piano studio in Watertown, where she teaches students of all ages how to use their bodies efficiently. She is a member of Music Teachers National Association, MA Music Teachers Association, American association of AT and the Lexington Music Club. Akiko joined a charity concert in 2011 and has served as President/Executive Music Director since 2013.

Born in Osaka, Japan, **Yoko Igarashi** completed her Doctor of Musical Arts degree at Boston University in Collaborative Piano where she was given a full scholarship. Prior to her study at BU, she earned her Master of Arts degree in Piano Performance at The Frederic Chopin Academy in Warsaw, Poland, Master of Music degree in Piano Accompanying at San Francisco Conservatory, and Graduate Diploma degree in Collaborative Piano at New England Conservatory. During her studies at NEC and BU, she began working as a ballet pianist at Jose Mateo Ballet Theatre in Cambridge, MA. Upon graduating from BU, she joined Boston Ballet School as a full-time pianist. Besides working at BBS, she is also a staff pianist at New England Conservatory of Music and maintains a private piano studio in Boston. Igarashi has been a member of the BCC since 2013.

**Yoko Schwarz** resides and teaches piano in Lexington, Massachusetts. Born in Tokyo, Japan, she began playing piano at the age of three. After graduating from Toho Music School, she earned her B.A. degree at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique and Dance de Paris. Schwarz has performed in nationally broadcast festivals in the United States, Europe and Japan, including the Aspen Music Festival, the William Kapell, Lugano, Delemont, Noyer-sur-Serein, the KMF Music Festival and the International Rachmaninoff Musical Festival. Today, she regularly accompanies local musicians, performs in recitals, and is a member of the Lexington Music Club and New England Piano Teachers' Association. Yoko has been a member of BCC since 2013.

**Sanae Koinuma** performs as a soloist, accompanist, and collaborator in different chamber ensembles. She performs at a variety of concerts including a faculty recital at Longy School of Music of Bard College. She passionately teaches students at a private studio in Lexington, teaching about 20 students. She is a member of MTNA and MMTA. Her students have received awards of recognition in many competitions. Currently, she is a trainee of Andover Educations, studying body mapping for musicians. She received a Master's degree in Music from Longy School of Music in Boston where Victor Rosenbaum and Robert Merfeld coach.

She worked with Dr. Margaret Evans at Meredith College in North Carolina. She received a Bachelor's degree in Music from Kunitachi College of Music in Tokyo where Kyoko Okayama coaches. Sanae joined BCC in 2016.

**Masabumi Koinuma** is a community musician who is active in collaborating with regional musicians on chamber and orchestral works. Born in Kanagawa, Japan, he began playing clarinet in university and quickly picked up the skills to play as a solo and orchestral player. Back when he was in Japan, he was a member of the Amadeus Orchester Tokyo, Blumen Philharmonie, Ensemble Meson, IBM Philharmonic Orchestra, Japan and the University of Tokyo Orchestra. As a soloist, he performed duet-concertino for clarinet and bassoon by Richard Strauss with Blumen Philharmonie in 1999. He continued his music activity after he came to the United States in 2005 for his work as an engineer. He is currently a member of New Philharmonia Orchestra. He also enjoys performing collaborative pieces in chamber concerts. He studied clarinet under Kunio Hirabayashi. Masa joined BCC in 2017.

Toshimitsu **“Toshi” Motoyama** is a violinist who plays piano trios with pianist Clara Chan and cellist Duke Roth and has performed as a member of Apollo Ensemble. Born in Tokyo, Japan, he started studying violin when he was four years old. He was one of the founding members of Teatro alla Galleria, a community opera theater, where he was concertmaster of the orchestra. In 1998, he moved to Boston to pursue a career as a software engineer, specializing in computer vision and machine learning. A few years later, he started organizing the Afternoon Concert series with his friends, and its 30th concert was held in 2022. He studied violin with Hiroko Masaoka and Ronan Lefkowitz.

**Ririka Tokushige** Multi wind player Ririka Tokushige has been involved with music all her life. Her main instruments are saxophone, clarinet and flute, and she has been actively playing in various local bands in Boston area for 20 years. After studying jazz at Berklee College of Music, her interest in music expanded in many different genres, including rock, funk, blues, gospel, classical, latin and other world music. Ririka has recorded numerous CDs with many groups in different styles. Besides playing actively, Ririka also has been teaching private/group lessons in the greater Boston area.

A prize winner at several competitions, **Chihiro Larissa Tsukamoto** has been invited to perform piano at the Haydn Hall of Esterházy Palace in Austria, the Béla Bartók Conservatory in Hungary, the Schumann House in Germany, and Jordan Hall in Boston. She studied piano at New England Conservatory, The Juilliard School, and Manhattan School of Music; percussion at Manhattan School of Music; and was a volunteer harpist at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Chihiro holds a B.A. from Columbia University, an M.A. from the University of Iceland, and a Ph.D. in Medieval Studies from Yale University.

**Liam Hynes-Tawa** is a cellist, composer, and theorist who teaches music theory at Harvard University. Liam's research has mostly been either on Japanese music and music theory, with foci on school songs and enka; or on late Renaissance and early baroque music, including having written a PhD dissertation on the history of the Phrygian mode therein. Liam doesn't get to perform music all that much these days anymore, and is very grateful to get to do so with the Boston Charity Concert!

**Kay Tsukamoto** is a pianist and violinist based in Boston. She has performed at the Mildred P. Freiberg Piano Festival and the Massachusetts Music Teachers Association Judged Festival. In the 2018 MMTA Judged Festival they were awarded first place. Tsukamoto received a B.A. in East Asian Studies and Music and Ethnomusicology at Mount Holyoke College. She was a member of the Mount Holyoke Symphony Orchestra. Kay has studied violin with Ariel Horowitz, Patrick Shaughnessy, and Nurit Pacht. Kay has been an active participant in BCC since 2013.

