

Professor Reiko OTANI, Osaka, Kyoto, Japan

The Winner of the Henryk Wieniawski International Violin Competition in Poznan, Poland in 1996, Reiko Otani



performs frequently as a soloist and a chamber musician in Japan and abroad. Her recent CD recordings “Ysaÿe’s Six Solo Sonatas”(2008) and “Polonaise! – Selected Polish works for violin and piano”(2011) were highly acclaimed and chosen as the “Specially Selected Disc” in the Record Geijutsu and Ongaku Gendai magazines. Born in Osaka, Japanese violinist Reiko Otani studied at the Toho-Gakuen School of Music in Tokyo with Toshiya Eto and Koichiro Harada. She studied with Igor Oistrakh at the Royal Conservatory in Brussels in 1996-2002 with a grant from the Japanese government. There she has received the highest Masters degree with the "greatest distinction" in 1998. She has also studied at the masterclasses with many great violinists such as Herman Krebbers, Yfrah Neaman, Ruggiero Ricci, Franco Gulli, Ida Haendel, Igor Ozim, Krzysztof Wegrzyn and Ana Chumachenko. She

won 1st prize at the Japan Music Competition in 1993. In 1996, at the H. Wieniawski International Violin Competition in Poznan, Poland, she won top prize as well as special prizes for best performance of a Wieniawski Concerto, best performance of a Sonata, and best performance of a Wieniawski Polonaise. She is also a laureate of many of the most prestigious international competitions in 1994-2000 such as Spohr (Freiburg), Tokyo, Queen Elisabeth (Brussels), Hannover and Sibelius (Helsinki). Her international career has led her to perform extensively in Europe. Ever since her sensational debut in Warsaw Philharmonic hall in Poland in 1996, she has made numerous tours of Europe, performing with most major orchestras as well as giving recitals, including performances with the Sinfonia Varsovia under the direction of Sir Yehudi Menuhin and recital at the International Chopin Festival in Duszyniki. She performed Concertos under the auspices of the prestigious Salzburg Music Festival, and also performed with the Holland Chamber Orchestra under the baton of Philippe Entremont in the main hall of the Amsterdam Concertgebouw. In the United States, she was invited to perform at the Santa Fe Chamber Music Festival and La Jolla Summerfest. She gave recitals in St Petersburg in Russia, in Tallinn in Estonia and other many other countries in Europe, Asia and United States. Performing extensively in her native country, Reiko Otani has performed as a soloist with numerous orchestras in Japan, such as the Tokyo Symphony, the Japan Philharmonic, the Kyushu Symphony, the Sendai Philharmonic, the Izumi Sinfonietta Osaka, and the Sapporo Symphony Orchestra. She has had the honor of performing for the Japanese Imperial Family at Tokogakudo Hall in the Imperial Palace. Her most recent highlights are performances with the Franz Liszt Chamber Orchestra of Hungary, the Subscription concerts of the Tokyo City Philharmonic, the Osaka Century Orchestra, and the Kansai Philharmonic Orchestra. She also performed with the Osaka Sinfoniker, the Kyoto Symphony, the Osaka Philharmonic, the Tokyo Philharmonic (broadcasted on NHK-FM), the Sendai Philharmonic, the Kyoto Philharmonic, Central Aichi Symphony, the Kyoto Philharmonic Chamber, the Gunma Symphony Orchestras and so on. She is a member of the Saito-Kinen Orchestra conducted by Seiji Ozawa, and has been appeared the Saito-Kinen Festival in Matsumoto for one month every summer since 2001. She participated in the European Tour (2004), the American tour (2010) and the China tour (2011) of the Saito-Kinen Orchestra, and performed in the prestigious concert halls in the six countries such as Berlin Philharmonic Hall and Musikverein in Vienna, as well as three concerts in the NY Carnegie Hall. In 2012, she was invited to Poznan, Poland as a project leader of the “Workshop with the laureate” by Wieniawski Society. There she gave master classes for selected young Polish violinists and performed at the recital. Currently she is on the faculty of the Kyoto City University of Arts and the Soai University in Osaka.