

FASHIONABLE CLASSICAL CONCERT IN BARCELONA VOL.1

DR. RIE HIRAI



Thursday 6th June 2019 at 8.30 PM

Sala de Llevant - Biblioteca de Catalunya
(carrer de l'Hospital 56 - Barcelona)

Biblioteca de Catalunya
Carrer de l'Hospital 56 - 08001 - Barcelona
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Monday - Friday from 9 AM to 8 PM
Saturday from 9 AM to 2 PM

DR. RIE HIRAI



Rie Hirai was born in a family of musicians. Her grandfather was a renowned composer and her grandmother was a violinist. She is the daughter of Professor Takejiro Hirai, with whom she began studying piano and composition. Rie Hirai graduated from both the High School Division and the Music Department of the Tokyo University of the Arts (GEIDAI).

In 2010, she received a Doctor in Music degree with a thesis on the piano works of Granados, which turned her into the youngest Doctor in Music of Japan. In 2012, she received the National Award of Most Active Japanese in the World “Passion without borders” from the Minister of National Policy of Japan, and was awarded with the title “Japan, Dr. Rie, The Graceful Muse” from the State of Japan. Besides giving many recitals in Japan and overseas, Rie Hirai holds lecture concerts, does research and writes articles on musical journals. Since 2014, she is Assistant Professor at the University of Utsunomiya.

Among her large repertoires, Haydn, Chopin, Grieg, Scriabin, Rachmaninoff, Granados and Falla are highly estimated by the critic as “most clear touch”, “deep expressive tone” and “remarkable perfection, which shows a wide capacity of expression”. Furthermore, she is also active as a soprano singer and she has held concerts of piano and soprano for public schools around Japan sponsored by the Minister of Culture.

For over a decade, Rie Hirai has been studying and playing Granados’ compositions. While doing her doctoral thesis, she visited the Biblioteca de Catalunya (BC), where the personal collection of the composer is preserved, and the Museu de la Música. In 2008, she gave a recital in Barcelona as a Granados scholar. That same year, alongside with her father, she edited the piano works of Granados. Some years later, in 2011 and 2012, she returned to the city to give recitals by invitation of Biblioteca de Catalunya. The pianist played the Pleyel concert grand piano owned by Granados, which is nowadays preserved in the BC. This institution gave her an honor for her effort on researching and presenting the Catalan culture.

PROGRAMME

Piano: Dr. Rie HIRAI

Enric GRANADOS

Allegro de concierto

Valses poéticos

Oriental (Danza española, núm. 2)

Andaluza (Danza española, núm. 5)

Ernesto LECUONA

La Comparsa

Malagueña

Kozaburo HIRAI

Sakura-Sakura (A Fantasy for Piano)

Takejiro HIRAI

Kazaguruma (Toy Windmill)

Rie HIRAI

Breeze of Oranges