

January 30, 2010

SENDAGAYA

STYLE

OPERA CONCERT

CHIHO TAGAMI soprano
SHINOBU HASEGAWA mezzo soprano
MASATO TAKADA tenor
KEI YONASHIRO baritone

RUMIKO NAKANISHI piano
MAKIA MATSUMURA piano

Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall

Soprano **Chiho Tagami** has been praised for her clear, bell-like singing and attractive stage presence. Her operatic appearances include Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Papagena in *Magic Flute*, Musetta in *La Bohème*; she has also performed in *La Traviata*, *Giulio Cesare*, *L'elisir d'amor*, and *Olfeo* as part of the ensemble. She was a finalist in the 17th Sougaku-do Japanese Song Competition. Ms. Tagami holds a bachelor's degree from the Kunitachi College of Music and a master's degree from the Toho Gakuen School of Music. She is currently studying at Il conservatorio di G. Nicolini in Piacenza, Italy.

In 2009, **Shinobu Hasegawa**, an aspiring mezzo-soprano, mesmerized her audience with a superb portrayal of Krista in *The Makropulos Case* by *Janáček* at the *Nissei Theatre in Tokyo* conducted by Christian Arming. Her opera credits also include Dorabella in Mozart's *Così fan tutte*, Cherbino in *Le Nozze di Figaro*, Annio in *La clemenza di Tito*, as well as Ravel's *L'enfant et les sortilèges*. In 1998 and 2002, she was featured in concerts at the Chiesa di St. Rocco in Bologna, Italy. She won the top prize at the 8th Verdi Art and Culture Foundation Special Audition, and she was a finalist in the 12th Sogaku-do Japanese Song Competition and the 12th Japan-France Vocal Competition. Ms. Hasegawa earned her bachelor's degree from the Tokyo College of Music and her master's degree from the Tokyo University of the Arts. She has also studied at Scuola Musicale di Milano.

Known for his youthful and vibrant voice, **Masato Takada** is thought to be one of the most promising tenor singers of his generation. After finishing his bachelor's and master's studies at the Tokyo University of the Arts, he continued his studies at Il conservatorio di G. Nicolini in Piacenza, Italy, with scholarships from the Italian government and the Rotary International Foundation. He has performed in numerous concerts worldwide, including Italy (Milan, Verona, and Piacenza), Taiwan, and the U.S. (New York City). As an opera singer, he has appeared as Ferrando in *Così fan tutte*, Alfredo in *La Traviata*, Ottavio in *Don Giovanni*, Don Jose in *Carmen*, and Pincherton in *Madama Butterfly*, among others. He currently resides and studies in New York City as a Trainee of the Japanese Government Overseas Study Program for Artists.

After finishing his bachelor's studies in piano performance at the Toho College of Music, **Kei Yonashiro** switched his major to singing for his Master's study at the same institution, and he has since established a reputation as an authentic baritone to lead today's vocal music scene in Japan. A graduate of the New National Theatre Opera Studio's Training Programme for Opera Singers, he has studied in Milan as a Trainee of the Japanese Government Overseas Study Program for Artists. He has won numerous prizes, including the third prize at the 16th Mario del Monaco International Vocal Competition, as well as the first prize and the Yoshinao Nakata Prize at the 18th Sogaku-do Japanese Song Competition. He has appeared as Guglielmo in *Così fan tutte*, Apollo in *Orfeo*, Escamillo in *Carmen*, and Onegin in the Peter Konwitschny production of *Eugene Onegin*.

Holding her degrees in composition from the Tokyo University of the Arts and The Juilliard School, **Makia Matsumura** has been active as a composer, arranger, and pianist. Her latest project, an original score for a 1923 silent film, "WITHIN THE LAW", will be available on DVD from Kino International in March 2010.

Rumiko Nakanishi earned her Bachelor's degree in Music at the Toho Conservatory and her Master's of Music Degree in Accompaniment at the Tokyo College of Music's graduate school. She made her debut as concerto soloist with the Tokyo New City Philharmonic. She has been living in New York City since fall of 2008.