

Junko OKAZAKI

Pianist



At the age of three, Junko Okazaki began piano studies. After joining the Academy of Toho at age eleven, she successfully ended her studies at the Music University of Tohogakuen (Tokyo), Japan.

In 1981, she realises her dream and begins work with Vlado Perlemuter who becomes her master.

In 1984, she settles permanently in Paris, and, in 1985, is awarded the higher graduation of "exécution au piano" at Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris Alfred Cortot. Then, in 1988, she gets the upper level in chamber music.

Since 1986, she has given many concerts in France, the United States, Italy and Japan.

She gave her first recital at Salle Gaveau in 1998, and it has been followed by others every year.

In 2008, she gave a recital in the Senate, which was recorded for France Musique, and another in the "Galerie Dorée" of the Banque de France, for the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the relationship between France and Japan (in partnership with Banque de France).

In 2009, she performed in the Salon d'Honneur des Invalides.

In 2011, after the Fukushima tragedy, she gave several concerts to help her Japanese fellow citizens.

In 2012, to commemorate the tenth anniversary of her master Vlado Perlemuter's death, she interpreted musical works by Maurice Ravel

and Gabriel Fauré at Salle Gaveau. She gave a Chopin recital at Motte-Tilly château.

In 2013, invited by "the Friends of Maurice Ravel", she took part in the concert in homage to the great composer, on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of his death.

Currently, according to her master's wish, she is working on the publication of a bilingual French-Japanese edition of the music sheets of Maurice Ravel annotated by Vlado Perlemuter.

In 2015, in the Salle Gaveau, Junko Okazaki played the music of her favourite composer, Maurice Ravel, to celebrate the 140th anniversary of his birth. A former student of Vlado Perlemuter, who bequeathed his own manuscripts to her, she works using the very annotations of the Master. One might wonder whether it is her frequent visits to Maurice Ravel's house in Montfort l'Amaury which make her playing so poetic. Her interpretation, both unadorned and subtle, is characteristic, with its melodic details, rhythm and movement, yet she is always faithful to the basic musical form.

In 2015 also, she collaborated with the film producer Didier Lemaire by composing the original music of his film *Noctuelles*. The film was made at "Belvédère", the house in Montfort l'Amaury of Maurice Ravel, who lived there from 1921 to 1937.

In 2016, to comply with her Master's request, Junko Okazaki carried on with the bilingual translation (French-Japanese) of Ravel's piano scores, annotated by Vlado Perlemuter. She was invited to "la Matinale de France-Musique" to present the work. During the same year, she was invited to give a concert in the Galerie Dorée (the Golden Gallery) at the Banque de France.

In 2017, on the occasion of the publication of the complete edition of Ravel's music scores, the Franco-Japanese Foundation Sasakawa gave Junko Okazaki financial help for her Ravel recital at Salle Gaveau, on March 17th. A new Ravel CD has since been released by FORLANE.