

**Rintaro AKAMATSU**, born in Oita (Japan) in 1978, started studying the piano and violin at the age of 2 and the cello at 6. Since his childhood days, he has given many public concerts and broadcasts. He performed Mozart's concerto with cadenza extemporaneously at the age of 10. Starting with the Grand Prix of "All Japanese Students' Music Competition" in 1990, he has won numerous prizes in Japan.

His first international honor was the 3<sup>rd</sup> prize at The "Clara Schumann" international piano competition in 2000, where one of the jury members was Martha Argerich. Dr. Joachim Kaiser called Akamatsu "an intelligent and talented pianist" on ZDF's program. Since then, he has won more than 10 prizes in international competitions.

He majored in musicology at Kobe University and received the *Diplôme supérieur de concertiste (à l'unanimité avec félicitations du Jury)* of both piano and chamber music at the *Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris*. While living in Düsseldorf, Paris and Budapest, he studied under Mikhail Voskresensky, France Clidat, Jean Micault, Nina Patarcec, Christian Ivaldi, Gyorgy Nádor, and Zoltán Kocsis.

Akamatsu has performed in Saint-Petersburg (2000), Düsseldorf (2001/2013), Taipei (2002), Paris (2003-2005), at the Beppu Argerich Festival (2004), in Rome (2005), Budapest (2005-2007), Bogotá (2010), and Vienna (2013) etc.. He regularly gives more than 60 concerts a year in Japan, including concertos and chamber music performances. His next CD recording will be released by KING INTERNATIONAL in 2014.

More than 200 of the students that Akamatsu has taught have gone on to win prizes in various competitions. In addition, Akamatsu frequently serves on juries, regularly contributes essays and articles to newspapers and magazines, and serves as the managing director of the Japan Liszt Society.