

Reiko Yamada has served as Principal Keyboardist of the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra since 1995 and has performed extensively throughout the United States and Japan. She was a member of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago from 1992 to 1998, serving as Principal Keyboardist during her final three seasons. She has also appeared as a supplemental keyboardist with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, including its Chamber Music series.

A native of Nikko, Tochigi, Japan, Yamada studied piano at the Tokyo College of Music, where she attended Akira Ifukube's seminars for four years. Her study with the composer profoundly influenced her musical life, inspiring a lasting dedication to his music, philosophy, and artistic vision. In 2005, she visited Ifukube at his home, where they spent time discussing his music and *Ritmica Ostinata* in his private study.

Although Yamada had long wished to perform Ifukube's *Ritmica Ostinata per Pianoforte ed Orchestra*, she initially hesitated because of the work's extraordinary technical demands. Following a serious automobile accident in 2003 and a profound period of recovery, she returned to the idea of taking on the work. She ultimately decided to undertake the challenge as both a musical and personal commitment to expressing what she believed to be the composer's intentions.

In June 2006, Yamada gave her first performance of *Ritmica Ostinata* with the Tochigi-ken Symphony Orchestra in Utsunomiya, Tochigi. As Ifukube had passed away only a few months earlier, the performance became a memorial to the composer. Since then, she has performed the work with orchestras in Japan and the United States, including the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra and the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra. She has performed *Ritmica Ostinata* on numerous significant occasions commemorating Ifukube and his music, and the work has become one of the defining works of her repertoire.

Yamada has also made several critically acclaimed recordings devoted to Ifukube's music, including **three volumes of the Akira Ifukube Works for Piano series**. *Volume 1* was highly recommended by *Record Geijutsu* magazine. The series includes several world-premiere recordings of Ifukube's piano and piano-reduction works and has contributed to bringing his lesser-known piano music to a wider audience.

In addition to her orchestral career, Yamada is an active soloist, chamber musician, and educator. Her repertoire ranges from Baroque music to contemporary works, and she has performed both piano and harpsichord in orchestral and chamber settings. She has taught at several institutions in the Chicago area and is currently a faculty member at the Music Institute of Chicago.

Yamada holds degrees from the Tokyo College of Music and the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University. Through her performances, recordings, and teaching, she continues to share her passion for Ifukube and classical music with audiences in the United States and Japan, while carrying forward the composer's musical ideas, aesthetic, and creative vision for future generations.

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