

Hyung-ki Joo, Piano / Composition

Biography

A smart, dashing performer with an industry buzz created as much by his charismatic presence as by his work at the keyboard. [...] The full house gave Joo enthusiastic applause after each spoken introduction and did the same with a mighty shout after each piece. Billboard

Hyung-ki Joo has devoted his creative energy to making classical music accessible for audiences of all ages and backgrounds and has explored ways to present concerts that fit into the 21st Century. On stage, Hyung-ki Joo enraptures audiences with his jovial and contagious stage presence as well as his energetic, brilliantly virtuosic performance. He takes on various musical roles and develops special projects that present him as pianist, orchestra leader, communicator, arranger, and composer. As a soloist, he has performed with renowned orchestras such as the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Seoul Philharmonic Orchestra, the Wiener Symphoniker, and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. An invitation from the Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santi Cecilia under Sakari Oramo was a recent highlight of 2023. As a curator, he was invited to conceive the opening of the Wiener Festwochen 2023. As a conductor, he led the Hong Kong Sinfonietta at the start of season 2023/24 with his project *Haydn Seek*, conveying the playful spirit of Haydn's music.

Hyung-ki Joo's compositions have been performed by orchestras, ensembles, and soloists, such as the New York Philharmonic, Tonhalle Orchestra Zürich, Komische Oper Berlin Ensemble, Meta4, Emanuel Ax, Tine Thing Helseth, Daniel Hope, Natasha Paremski, Yuja Wang, and recorded by artists such as Shani Diluka, Sun Hee You, and the Ahn Piano Trio. His music is published by Universal Edition and Modern Works.

His love for chamber music has shaped Hyung-ki Joo's musical career, leading to collaborations with artists including Renaud Capuçon, Martin Fröst, Janine Jansen, Mischa Maisky, Julian Rachlin, Belcea Quartet as well as members of the Alban Berg Quartet and the Quatuor Ébène. His fondness for lied and vocal repertoire has led to collaborations with singers such as Dame Felicity Lott, Valentina Nafornta, Julien Prégardien, and future projects include collaborations with Mojca Erdmann, Nadine Sierra and Asmik Grigorian, with whom he will share the stage at Vienna State Opera in May 2024.

Besides performing as a pianist and chamber musician with the world's top orchestras and musicians, Hyung-ki Joo has also collaborated with many artists outside of the conventional classical music world. Billy Joel is one such artist who engaged Joo to arrange and record Joel's final album of solo piano pieces - *Fantasies and Delusions*. He has also appeared in several films, including *Pianomania*, *Noseland* and *Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Classical Music*.

A passionate communicator, Hyung-ki Joo works to inspire the next generation of musicians. In his *Beyond the Practice Room* workshops, he places the focus on the joy of making music and encourages participants to explore other directions beyond "classical" performance. He loves to work regularly with students, youth orchestras and ensembles. Following recent collaborations with the Norwegian National Youth Orchestra and the Luxembourg Youth Philharmonic Orchestra, he will perform with the Youth Orchestra of Tonhalle Düsseldorf later this season. He is the recipient of an honorary doctorate degree from Manhattan School of Music, serves on the faculty of the Paderewski Academy, and is a mentor for graduates and students in their last year at the Yehudi Menuhin School.

With his duo, IGUDESMAN & JOO, they ignited the internet with their inventive and hilarious videos combining classical music, comedy and pop culture, and have brought laughter into concert halls all over the world. Major orchestras have commissioned the duo to create new works, and illustrious musical guests such as Joshua Bell, Gidon Kremer, Viktoria Mullova, Yuja Wang, have all asked them to create shows for them. They have worked with actors such as John Malkovich, and Sir Roger Moore (in several projects for UNICEF), and are authors of the book, *Rette die Welt (Save the World)*, published by "edition-a".

2023/24 season

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Link to the artist page: <https://en.karstenwitt.com/artist/hyung-ki-joo>