

Piano 4 Hands

Joseph Tong & Waka Hasegawa

Widely regarded as one of Britain's leading piano duos, Piano 4 Hands are regular performers at London's Wigmore Hall, South Bank Centre and Fairfield Halls. Joseph Tong and Waka Hasegawa were prize winners at the 2003 Tokyo International Piano Duo Competition and at the Schubert International Competition in the Czech Republic. Much in demand in the UK and abroad, they have given recitals in Japan, Germany and the USA as well as live broadcasts for BBC Radio 3 and WFMT Radio in Chicago.

Since their critically acclaimed debut in the 2002 Park Lane Group Series, Joseph Tong and Waka Hasegawa have given several Wigmore Hall recitals promoted by the Kirckman Concert Society. Piano 4 Hands has performed at many of the major concert venues around the UK including Bridgewater Hall in Manchester, St David's Hall Cardiff, St George's Bristol and the Turner Sims Hall in Southampton as well as at festivals such as the Cheltenham Music Festival, Bury St Edmunds, Guildford, Chichester Festivities and the York Spring Festival of New Music.

Their debut CD of Debussy duets on the Quartz label was Album of the Week in The Independent and highly recommended in BBC Music Magazine and the Penguin Guide to Recorded Classical Music. Last year their recording of Schubert duets, including the great Fantasie in F minor, received rave reviews in Gramophone, Classic FM Magazine, The Sunday Times and The Independent.

A number of composers have written new works for the duo including Dai Fujikura, Robert Keeley, Nicola LeFanu, Edwin Roxburgh and most recently John McCabe, whose new piano duet 'Upon entering a painting' they premièred at Wigmore Hall in 2009. They have also recorded Edwin Roxburgh's 'Homage to Debussy' for the NMC label. Future plans include a co-commission for two pianos from Dai Fujikura and CD recordings of Julius Röntgen for Toccata Classics and of duet and two piano works by John McCabe for Quartz.

Joseph Tong and Waka Hasegawa were elected Associates of the Royal Academy of Music in 2008 and their duo selected for the Making Music Concert Promoters' Network Scheme for the 2009-10 season. They are founders and Artistic Directors of the Bristol International Piano Duo Festival, which will next take place in October 2011.