

Akiko Yamazaki has performed as soloist and chamber musician across the U.S., Japan, China, and Italy. Most recently, she performed at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall. Yamazaki has an interest in contemporary works and women composers, and enjoys performing innovative programs. She was awarded the IMTF Grant by NCMTA to study and perform music of Clara Schumann and Toru Takemitsu. Yamazaki appeared as a soloist with Raleigh Symphony Orchestra as a recipient of the Benjamin Kilgore Gibbs award. An avid chamber musician, she has collaborated with artists including clarinetists Donald Oehler, Samuel Almaguer, Edwin Riley, Nicholas Morrison, Andrea Splittberger-Rosen, violinists Kate Carter, Katharina Uhde, Leah Peroutka, bassoonist Jessica Kunttu, and soprano Suzanne Post. She gave the world premiere of Matthew Orlovich's Dawn Rhapsody with violinist Karen Galvin, assistant concertmaster of the North Carolina Symphony. She is on the faculty at the UNC Chamber Music Workshop.

A passionate teacher, Yamazaki is dedicated to nurturing and mentoring her students. Her students have won prizes at local, regional, and national competitions. Yamazaki was the 2009 recipient of the MTNA STAR award, awarded for her excellence in teaching and leadership. She is active as a presenter, master class clinician, and adjudicator. She regularly engages in community service and outreach as a pianist and teacher. She has organized benefit concerts for A Helping Hand, UNC Children's Hospital and TABLE. Her performances and teaching have supported Upbeat, The People's Music School and International Children's Center, both in Chicago, and Japanese earthquake and tsunami relief. Her students regularly share their talents in the community.

Yamazaki holds a Master of Music degree in piano performance and pedagogy from Northwestern University, where she studied under the tutelage of James Giles. She holds a Bachelor of Music degree with highest distinction from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Her principal teacher was Mayron Tsong. A recipient of the Excellence Fellowship, she is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She has performed in summer festivals such as Piano Summer at New Paltz, Duxbury Music Festival, Kamisaibara Piano Festival, Schlern International Music Festival, and Beijing International Music Festival. She is a past president of Chapel Hill Music Teachers Association, and she has served on the board of North Carolina Music Teachers Association. In 2017, she joined the faculty at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.