



Eiji Hashimoto

August 7, 1931 - January 14, 2021

Eiji Hashimoto, a renowned harpsichordist and scholar of baroque classical music, died on January 14, 2021, at the age of 89. Mr. Hashimoto was born in 1931 in Tokyo, Japan. He gained attention as a musician at an early age, performing in the early 1940s as an organist on music programs aired by NHK, the Japanese national broadcast station. After graduating from the Tokyo University of Fine Arts and Music, he was selected for the Fulbright Program to study in the United States. He completed a graduate degree in music at the University of Chicago, then completed a further graduate degree in music performance at Yale University. At Yale, Mr. Hashimoto studied with Ralph Kirkpatrick, who had recently published a critical edition of 60 sonatas by Domenico Scarlatti.

Mr. Hashimoto returned to Japan in 1964 to teach at the Toho-Gakuen School of Music and pursue a career as a performer. One of his concerts in Tokyo was attended by the French Cultural Attaché in Japan, and that led to the award of a grant from the French government, allowing Mr. Hashimoto to conduct musicological research in Paris. In 1968, while visiting the U.S. for harpsichord recitals, Mr. Hashimoto was invited by the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati (CCM) to establish a program for harpsichord, and he was appointed to the music faculty of CCM. As an Artist-in-Residence at CCM, he taught harpsichord and courses in the interpretation and performance of baroque music. Mr. Hashimoto also began a baroque performance workshop at CCM that evolved into the Ensemble for Eighteenth Century Music, which toured internationally and recorded several albums of works by the sons of J.S. Bach, Luigi Boccherini and Joseph Haydn. He remained a full professor at CCM until 2001, when he became a Professor Emeritus.

As a performer and recording artist, Mr. Hashimoto was known for his technical brilliance and strict adherence to baroque performance practices. He concertized actively as a harpsichordist, both as a soloist and with ensembles and orchestras across the United States and in twenty-three countries, and he recorded eighteen albums on both Japanese and US record labels. Between 1968 and 1986, he performed numerous times with the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra as a guest artist and soloist. Mr. Hashimoto was also

recognized as a scholar of baroque music, and was twice awarded research grants by the Rockefeller Foundation for scholarly residencies in Bellagio, Italy. He published and edited books on performance practice and critical editions of music, including works by C.P.E. Bach, J.B. Loeillet and 190 Sonatas by Domenico Scarlatti—which continued the work of his mentor, Ralph Kirkpatrick.

Mr. Hashimoto is survived by his wife, Ruth Hashimoto; his three children: Christine (Kirk) Merritt, Ken (Allison Dubinski) Hashimoto, and Erica Hashimoto; and five granddaughters: Katherine and Elizabeth Merritt, Scarlett and Sabina Hashimoto, and Naomi Hashimoto. A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date.

Comments



“ I have just read about my brother’s passing and Im very sad not to have heard of this news earlier as we did not have much contact. My condolences to the rest of the family. If possible I would very much like to get in touch with you as I have no contact details.

Masao Hashimoto

Masao Hashimoto - February 26 at 02:41 PM



“ I just learned of Prof. Hashimoto's passing and am so very sorry for your loss. I had the honor of studying harpsichord with him at CCM. I will be forever grateful for that experience. My condolences to your family. Rest in peace and thank you, Professor.

Shawn T. Daly, D.M.A. - February 25 at 02:21 PM



“ In the late 1990's (I believe), Eiji brought the Ensemble for Eighteenth Century Music to the (Covington) Cathedral Concert Series.

The dignity and musical excellence he added to the concert series cannot be understated. My late father (director of the series at that time) held Eiji in high esteem, as do I - along with vivid memories of the performance given by the entire ensemble. In fact, the second movement of Bach's E Major violin concerto brought my late mother to tears by its exquisite interpretation and flawless rendition.

Please accept my sincere condolences on the passing of such a great person and teacher. I shall not forget his pleasant demeanor and formidable talent - and devotion to educating us all in the world of Baroque Music.

Most Sincerely,

Dr. Gregory Schaffer
Director, Cathedral Concert Series

Greg Schaffer - February 02 at 03:58 PM



“ I wanted to express my condolences to your family. Looking back I can't believe anyone had the patience to bring a harpsichord into Cottonwood Elementary gym, but I thank him for his patience and what he shared with a lot of children.. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers.
Mark Guttman and family

Mark Guttman - January 25 at 09:32 PM



“ Ruth, you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.
Juanita Yersky

Juanita M Yersky - January 24 at 02:01 PM



“ Treasured memory of the neighborhood gathering on your beautiful "tree house" deck for a mini concert by Eiji. Wonderful. Our condolences to you Ruth and your family. Sally and Alan Sakalas

Sally Sakalas - January 24 at 10:30 AM



“ I just learned of Eiji's passing and extend my deepest sympathies to Ruth and their family. I had the great pleasure of working with Eiji at CCM. And my first PR endeavor was getting a major article about him published in Ohio Magazine. But my fondest memory was working with then Governor Celeste to feature Eiji as the guest soloist for one of the Governor's intimate concert/dinner soirées at the Mansion. My husband and I enjoyed many double dates with him and Ruth. He will be so missed, but never forgotten. Jerri Roberts

Jerri Roberts - January 24 at 08:54 AM



“ Eiji and Ruth were our neighbors for many years. They were always delightful and caring. In 2003, Eiji had a concert in his home for the neighbors. Plus, he passed out tickets for his concerts. He was a very talented musician who will be missed.

Mike Gennett & Earl Hiell

Mike Gennett - January 24 at 07:34 AM



“ Mr. Hashimoto was my first harpsichord teacher. He opened my eyes to Early Music. I also studied Basso Continuo with him. He was a very fine teacher.

Frank Mento - January 21 at 04:08 PM