

Biography: **Yoshiko Arahata**

Praised for “possess[ing] an exacting facility at the keyboard, playing with a vibrancy not often heard” (Rochester CITY Newspaper), Yamaha Artist **Yoshiko Arahata** is a versatile pianist, improvisor, composer, and educator. As a soloist, she has performed across the US, Asia, Europe, and Latin America, including at Carnegie Hall, and was named a fellow of the prestigious Gilmore International Piano Festival. Her concerto appearances range from works by Bach and Beethoven to Wolfgang Rihm, György Ligeti, Steve Reich, and Aaron Jay Kernis. A sought-after collaborative pianist and chamber musician, Arahata has performed with Charles Castleman, Robin Scott, Jerry Hou, Gábor Varga, Jessica Ann Best, principal musicians from Toronto, Pittsburgh, and Rochester Philharmonic Orchestras, and artists at Garth Newel Chamber Music Festival.

This season’s engagements include residencies across the United States, Germany, Colombia, and Mexico. Her wide-ranging research and pedagogical contributions have been featured on global platforms such as Frances Clark Center Piano Inspires, National Conference of Keyboard Pedagogy, International Keyboard Collaborative Arts Society, International Society for Improvised Music, Asian Classical Music Initiatives, College Music Society, Music Teachers National Association, SHE: Women in Music Festival, and North Texas Piano Symposium.

In addition, Arahata is an active composer, improviser, and cross-disciplinary collaborator. Her composition for *Odyssea* (2023), a 30-minute dance-on-film produced in collaboration with Quicksilver Dance Company, has been showcased at Fringe Festivals in Scotland, UK, New York, New Zealand, and won the 2024 Toronto IndieFilmmakers Festival Award and 2025 Oneota Film Festival award.

Arahata is Assistant Professor of Piano and Collaborative Piano at New Mexico State University, where she develops a new collaborative piano curriculum. She also serves on the Creative Music Making committee of the National Conference of Keyboard Pedagogy, and is active as a masterclass teacher, adjudicator, and lecturer. Past appointments include Visiting Assistant Professor at Indiana University Bloomington and over five collegiate and community music teaching roles across upstate New York and Chicago—including at the Eastman School of Music, where she received the Excellence in Teaching Assistant Award. During the summer, she teaches “The Pianist’s Guide to Dance Accompaniment” that fosters keyboard versatility and has been teaching at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp since 2014.

Arahata holds Doctor of Musical Arts and Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from the Eastman School of Music, Master of Music from Northwestern University, and Bachelor of Science in Brain and Cognitive Sciences from the University of Rochester. Her principal teachers include renowned pianists Barry Snyder, Alan Chow, Enrico Elisi, and Dariusz Terefenko.