

Masako Ohta – Piano Player, Sound-Performance-Artist, Composer

"Masako Ohta is a poet of the piano." Münchner Feuilleton

Born in Tokyo, Japan, Masako Ohta, is a keen exponent of classical and contemporary music, and also of improvisation and composing. Masako Ohta is the first prize winner of the Giesinger Kulturprize 2016. In 2019 she was honoured by the City of Munich with the prestigious *Förderpreis für Musik*.

She graduated in the Toho Gakuen School of Music, Tokyo and the Hochschule der Künste, Berlin as a concert pianist and has taken masterclasses with Akira Miyoshi, Sir András Schiff, György Sebök and György Kurtág. Working with poetry, sounds and music from Japan, Europe and from other cultures constitutes a major field of her interest and Masako Ohta creates intercultural and interdisciplinary projects and concert series. Masako Ohta's work has been documented in numerous radio productions and on the CDs "Kaiyushikiteien" (2019) and "Music in Space" (2020) that recorded live-improvisations with Udo Schindler on his clarinets. February 2018 has seen the release of her piano solo CD "Poetry Album" for the label Winter & Winter (Winter & Winter N° 910 244-2). This recording, compiling piano pieces spanning a wide range of periods, has met with great critical acclaim and has received fine reviews in the press including *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, *Münchner Feuilleton* and *Piano News*. Her second Solo album CD "My Japanese Heart" (Winter & Winter No 910 264-2) for the label Winter & Winter came out in Summer 2020 worldwide and also met with great critical acclaim and was nominated for the **German Record Critics' Award 2020**. **Her third Solo album "My Music Garden" was released in November 2025** (Winter & Winter No 910 294-2).

In October 2022, the album (CD and vinyl) "Mmmh" with jazz trumpeter Matthias Lindermayr was released on the Squama label. The album "Mmmh" was chosen among the top ten best jazz albums of 2022 on BR Bavarian Broadcasting and nominated for the German Jazz Award 2023. In February 2025 their second album "NOZOMI" - Hope in English - was released. NOZOMI received the German Record Critics' Award in 2025 in the category „Crossover“. Furthermore, Masako Ohta was nominated for the German Jazz Award 2026 for the Best Piano-keyboard player.

As a dedicated and certified piano master she gives lessons and masterclasses for piano and chamber music. She combines her teaching with Japanese calligraphy and Tai-Chi under the motto "holistic playing on the piano" and gives her workshops worldwide.

Discography:

- 2014 "Ohenrosan" (Pilgrims of Sound, Germany) with Udo Schindler (Clarinet)**
- 2017 "Botenstoffe" (Confront Recordings, UK) with Udo Schindler (Clarinet)**
- 2018 "Poetry Album" (Winter & Winter, Germany) Solo Piano**
- 2019 "Kaiyushikiteien" (Creative Sources, Portugal) with Udo Schindler (Clarinet)**
- 2020 " My Japanese Heart" (Winter & Winter, Germany) Solo Piano**
- 2020 "Music in Space" (Creative Sources, Portugal) with Udo Schindler (Clarinet)**
- 2022 "Made in Japan" Bandcamp with Udo Schindler (Clarinet)**
- 2022 "Mmmh" (Squama Recordings) with Matthias Lindermayr (Trumpet)**
- 2024 "Solo EP" Masako Ohta Piano Solo (Squama Recordings, Digital)**
- 2025 "NOZOMI" (Squama Recordings) with Matthias Lindermayr (Trumpet)**
- 2025 "My Music Garden" (Winter & Winter, Germany) Solo-Piano**

<https://www.masako-ohta.de/>