

■Aka Duo

Seina Matsuoka (Violin) & Yuto Kiguchi (Piano)

Formed in 2018 by Seina and Yuto, who met at the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna and are studying with prof. Stefan Mendl, pianist of the Vienna Piano Trio. The duo's name "Aka" is derived from two meanings. One is "Aka", meaning RED in Japanese, and the other is an abbreviation of the English word "as known as".

Each of us is active individually, but we also want to bring back what we have gained and develop the Duo further. And eventually we want to be known as the "Aka duo" that shines as hot and strong as a red flame. The name 'Aka duo' is a reflection of this desire.

In 2022, they won the first prize and the audience prize at the 26th Rospigliosi International Chamber Music Competition (Italy). In March 2023, they received first prize and also a special prize at the Pinerolo Torino International Chamber Music Competition (Italy), one of the most important international chamber music competitions. The jury member Lukas Hagen, the first violinist of the Hagen String Quartet, praised the ensemble, saying: '*No one can play the Sonata of R. Strauss better than you.*'

In July last year, they became the first Asians to win first prize unanimously by the jury, the Miłosz Magin Award and the Best Contemporary Music Performance Award at the 3rd International Polish Music Competition in the chamber music category. They have already been invited to perform at concerts and festivals in Poland and Italy in the coming season 2024-25. Next summer they will perform at the "International Chopin and His Europe Festival", a summer festival organised by the Frederic Chopin Institute, the organiser of the International Chopin Piano Competition. And in 2025 they will give a recital at the "Clara's Flower Album" festival at the Vienna Musikverein.

They have a varied chamber music repertoire, ranging from duets to septets, and currently perform mainly in a violin-piano duo formation. The repertoire includes many violin sonatas from all periods, including classical, romantic and modern, and they also actively perform contemporary works in their recital programmes.

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