



PRESS RELEASE

Amsterdam, 20 April 2015

CD release of Tomoko's *Canto Ostinato*

Tomoko Mukaiyama releases a new recording of the famous piece *Canto Ostinato* by Simeon ten Holt. She recorded *Canto Ostinato* together with Dutch pianist Gerard Bouwhuis on phenomenal Italian instruments, two Fazioli 308's. This interpretation holds a completely new and personal perspective of Simeon ten Holt's signature piece. Tomoko colors it with her excellent technique and tempo, as well as with her individual choices for accents, doublings, dynamics and articulation within the score. With this brisk performance Tomoko moves away from every resemblance to the repetitive piece being too "pretty" and simple, like it was criticized by the academic music world in the seventies.

Tomoko's *Canto Ostinato* can be described as a dramatic version of the piece, one that is accelerating as well as enriching with a sense of togetherness. In comparison with other recordings Tomoko and Gerard very clearly choose to accentuate their own parts. It contains many different atmospheres in which Tomoko tells her own story.

For her the political side to this minimal work is very important. In *Canto Ostinato* the performers navigate through the piece and as they go along, they decide how and when to enter a new section. Tomoko feels this gives the work a very democratic character that leaves no room for hierarchy. Every single player who contributes to *Canto Ostinato* has the right to say something during the course of the performance; he has the choice to agree and go along with the proposed path, or disagree but respect what is being said. This way the pianists converse with each other and choose to follow different tracks within the piece.

Within this structure Tomoko recognizes a reflection of Dutch society, one that is of great value. This is one of the reasons why she destines her CD *Canto Ostinato* for the foreign and specifically Japanese market as well, to spread the equivalence of this conversation centered within a very well known classical piece.

Tomoko Mukaiyama

Tomoko Mukaiyama is a Dutch-Japanese pianist, performer and visual artist, who uses her experience as a concert pianist to give a new dimension to the concert space in coherence with other disciplines like performance, installation art and fashion. Among Tomoko's stages are the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, Sydney Opera House, Yokohama Triennial and the Holland Festival.

Gerard Bouwhuis

Gerard Bouwhuis has established himself as one of the leading pianists of contemporary music in Holland. His distinguished career as guest soloist includes appearances with the major orchestras and ensembles in the Netherlands and abroad, co-operating with conductors like Oliver Knussen, Reinbert de Leeuw, Emilio Pomarico and Peter Eötvös, among others. Gerard is member of the Ebony Band and teaches contemporary music at the Royal Conservatory in the Hague.

Canto Ostinato (Simeon ten Holt, 1976 – 1979)

Piano: Tomoko Mukaiyama, Gerard Bouwhuis

Recording date: December 1 & 2, 2014

Recording location: Grand Theatre, Groningen

Record/Edit: Frank van der Weij, Hans Erblisch

Instruments: Fazioli F308

Executive production: Tomoko Mukaiyama Foundation

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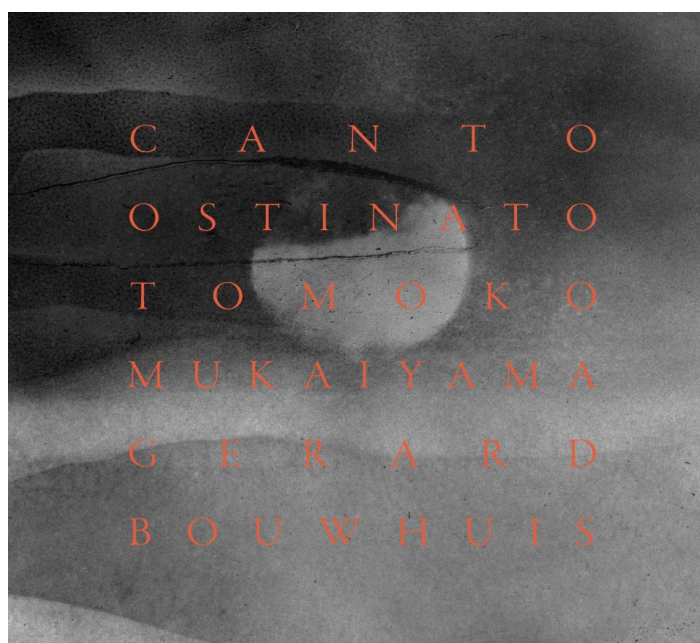
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