

English Version

Rena Kohara was born in Kobe, Japan, where she spent her grade school years and attended Hyogo Prefectural Nishinomiya High School as well as Soai University. She studied violin with Machie Oguri, graduating from college with a Bachelor of Arts in Music.

Rena began to play the violin at the age of 5 and was fascinated by the instrument. Ten years later she also started playing the viola. In 2005, she moved to Europe, where she studied with Thomas Fueri at Musik-Akademie Basel, receiving the Violin Konzertdiplom in 2008. She then attended the Hochschule Luzern, studying with Sebastian Hamann and Isabel Charisius (Alban Berg Quartet), graduating with a Master of Arts in Music in 2010. In 2016 she completed her Master of Arts in Music Pedagogy at the Musik-Akademie Basel. Furthermore, she also studied with Nobuko Imai (viola) as well as with Walter Levin, Rainer Schmidt and Gerard Wyss (chamber music). Since 2017 Rena is again based in Japan.

Rena has numerous students, both children and adults, some of whom are beginners, whilst others are already highly proficient players. She has participated in many of music festivals, including the Lenk Festival in Switzerland, the Aldeburgh Festival in England, and the Takefu International Music Festival in Japan, and has performed in concerts in Switzerland, France, Germany, UK, Italy, Poland, Russia, Korea and Japan.

Comment from Students' Mother

Rena is a wonderful musician and gifted teacher. Both my children have been taking violin lessons with Rena for over four years, starting at ages 4 and 6. I admire the humour and sensitivity with which she teaches, and her creativity in finding the right approach to master the difficulties faced by each child during the learning process. I also value her holistic approach which includes singing, rhythm exercises, basic theory, and body exercises informed by Alexander Technique. The children greatly enjoy their lessons with Rena.

As an amateur musician playing the piano, harpsichord and organ, I regularly participate in chamber music classes given by Rena. Rena has a quick grasp of what challenges the players and a rich repertoire of effective methods to help them overcome their difficulties. For me these classes are a source of inspiration, enabling me to understand and perform the music much better.