

Japanese pianist Akiko Okabe discovered her passion for contemporary music during her studies with Professor James Avery at the University of Music in Freiburg, Germany. She studied prior to this in Tokyo at the Toho-Gakuen College of Music and was the winner of several competitions in Japan and Europe.

She worked intensively on the compositions of Matthias Spahlinger, whose seminars were a great influence on her during her study. After graduating from Freiburg as a Soloist with Distinction, she continued her studies with Professor Stefan Litwin at the University of Music in Saarbrücken, where she broadened and deepened her contemporary performance practice.

Always exhibiting an open and curious approach to music making, Akiko Okabe has given the first performances of many pieces, and has worked with some of the most important composers of our time, including Beat Furrer, Georg Friedrich Haas, Nicolaus A. Huber, Isabel Mundry, Bernhard Lang, Salvatore Sciarrino, and Matthias Spahlinger.

She has appeared at numerous international festivals including *Donaueschinger Musiktagen*, *Wien Modern*, *Lucerne Festival*, *Ars Musica Festival* (Brussels), *Musica Strasbourg, musica viva* (Munich), *Liedfestival* (International Hugo Wolf Academy), *Tage für Neue Musik Zürich*, *Märzmusik* (Berlin), *Eclat Festival* (Stuttgart), *Weingartener Tage für neue Musik*, *Festival for Contemporary Music pgnm* (Bremen), *Festival Sonorama* (Rosario).

She is a member of the *Ensemble Aventure*, Freiburg and her artistic activities have been documented on numerous CDs, Radio and Television broadcasts.