

SHUNSKE SATO

violinist • conductor • teacher

For versions in other languages (German, Dutch, French) or abridged versions of this biography, please contact Marloes Biermans (mbiermans@icloud.com)

Shunske Sato is a violinist, a conductor, chamber musician, soloist and teacher – the diversity of his activities reflect his versatile and resourceful nature. Historically informed performance practice is central to his identity and allows him to inhabit the music and communicate with audiences in dramatic, revelatory ways. He directs and appears as soloist with period ensembles as well as symphonic orchestras around the world, and has led several staged productions as well.

Resident in The Netherlands, Shunske has been a faculty member of the Amsterdam Conservatory since 2013, where he teaches historical violin. He also gives masterclasses and workshops with regularity. Sharing his knowledge with young musicians is very important to him, which is why he enjoyed the guest projects he did with, among others, the European Union Baroque Orchestra and the New World Symphony (Miami).

From 2013 to 2023 Shunske was artistic leader and concertmaster of the Netherlands Bach Society. During his tenure he directed numerous works by J.S. Bach, including large-scale works such as *St. Matthew Passion* and *Christmas Oratorio*, as well as Passion music by Graun, Graupner and Keiser. His many recordings of cantatas and instrumental works by Bach can be seen on www.youtube.com/bach. Other notable accomplishments include his own instrumentation of Bach's *Art of Fugue*, collaborating with Opera2Day on an opera interweaving contemporary music and compositions by Bach, and video recordings of Bach's *Musical Offering* which visually render the compositional structures using special effects.

Since 2011 Shunske has worked closely with Concerto Köln as soloist, conductor and concertmaster. Known for their interpretations of Baroque and Classical works, Concerto Köln has been making noteworthy strides into the realm of the 19th century: their recent undertakings include Wagner's *Ring of the Nibelung* with Kent Nagano, Bruckner Symphonies, Paganini, Elgar and Tchaikovsky. With his experience in this repertoire and its performance practices, Shunske has been called upon as advisor, collaborator and soloist.

Shunske is regularly invited to guest direct ensembles such as the Dutch Radio Philharmonic Orchestra, Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, the Residentie Orkest in the Hague, the Stavanger Symphony Orchestra (Norway), Orfeo Orchestra (Hungary), Philharmonia Baroque (USA) and Orquestra Barocca de Sevilla. Upcoming highlights include a two-week residency in New York to lead a vocal instrumental Bach project at the Juilliard School, two solo recitals, and guest leading the Holy Trinity Bach Vespers.

Among the conductors with whom Shunske has collaborated both as soloist and concertmaster are Ivor Bolton, Richard Egarr, Philippe Herreweghe, Christopher Hogwood, René Jacobs, Ton Koopman, Kent Nagano and Hidemi Suzuki. Before historically informed practice became a part of Shunske's activities, he performed extensively as soloist with renowned symphonic orchestras such as the Deutsche Oper Berlin, Bavarian Radio Philharmonic, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, and the NHK Philharmonic Orchestra.

Born in Tokyo, Shunske immigrated to the US at the age of four. He studied at the Juilliard School in New York, Conservatoire National de Région in Paris and Hochschule für Musik und Theater in Munich. His teachers include Chin Kim, Dorothy DeLay, Masao Kawasaki, Gérard Poulet, Eiichi Chijiwa and Mary Utiger. Shunske's conducting mentors include Jos van Veldhoven, Hernán Schvartzman and René Gulikers.

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