

A Brief Conversation with Noriko Uenaka

Concert pianist Noriko Uenaka took time away from her busy rehearsal and concert schedule to answer our questions about her life as a professional musician.

Ms. Uenaka will be performing in the Aloha International Piano Festival opening night concert, which is free and open to the public.

What inspired you to become a musician?

My mother is a music-pedagogic teacher. And, my younger sister is a violinist.

What keeps you inspired on discouraging days?

When I feel tired of practicing, I go shopping.

What is the most memorable performance you have ever seen and why?

Brams Symphony No. 2 – by Carlos Kleiber and Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra in 1991.

If you could perform with any musician, living or dead, who would it be?

If possible, I would like to play with Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau - Franz Schubert's Lied cycle "Winterreise." (Editor's note: Singer and conductor Fischer-Dieskau is one of the most famous lieder singers of his generation.)

If you could master another instrument, what would it be?

Violin. Because I would like to play in orchestra.

If you could not be a musician, what other profession would you choose?

I imagine I would be a junior high school or high school teacher.

What do you listen to for inspiration?

I often listen to orchestra-music during my drive. And, I like to see ballet.