

The Lipman Duo

The Lipman Harp Duo is composed of two eminent harpists – **Sebastien Lipman** (Former **Solo Harpist of The Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra**) & **Sayo Lipman** (**Prize winner of Japan International Harp Competition**)- with

outstanding international credentials who have performed widely and globally, presenting well known and well loved repertoire for an always delighted audience. The angelic sound of two harps is unique, and so is this Duo, being the only such ensemble in Australia. During each performance, the Lipman Harp Duo charms audiences with world class playing, while simultaneously presenting rare and beautiful instruments, loved by all. The works performed include transcriptions and original works.

The husband and wife duo has performed over 100 **concerts since 2006** in various venues in in Australia as well as internationally. (Japan, USA and Canada.)

Their first CD - "**Harp Fusion**", released in 2006, consisting of popular classics and their second CD - "**Scenes of Childhood**", consisting of solos and duos by John Thomas, released internationally for the **Naxos label** in late 2007 have been featured on Australian radio stations as well as on 53 major radio station networks in 15 countries. (USA, Europe, etc.). **Qantas Inflight Entertainment** also featured the Lipman Harp Duo in "**Concert Hall Program**" in May 2008.

They **have performed in the USA on three separate occasions in 2007**, while continuing to perform extensively within Australia and undertook a **North Queensland tour** from Brisbane to Cairns in April 2008. In March of 2009, they embarked on their **first world tour**, performing to great acclaim, in **Tokyo, Paris, Cairo, Washington DC, Toronto, and Salt Lake City**.

In early 2009, they released their third CD entitled "**Arpeggio**" for the "**Harmonious Resonance**" label.

In July-August 2009, they performed for **the Australian Festival of Chamber Music**.

Sayo Lipman

Sayo Lipman, a native of Japan, started playing the piano at the age of two and the harp at the age of 9. She graduated from Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music High School and continued her studies at Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music, where she obtained her Bachelor in Harp. She was the 3rd prize winner at the Advanced Division of the 8th Japan International Harp Competition.

Upon her graduation, she pursued her studies at Indiana University (USA.) with Distinguished Professor Susann McDonald. She completed her Master's degree in Harp as a full scholarship recipient. She also obtained both Artist Diploma and Performer's Diploma. During her studies at Indiana University, she was awarded the Performance Certificate - the greatest honor granted by the School of Music, to outstanding students, on the basis of exceptional recital delivery. She also taught as an Associate Instructor for the harp department of Indiana University, for a period of two years.

She has given numerous solo harp recitals, as well as performances with regional orchestras, both in Japan and the USA.

She currently has a busy private studio and has also been teaching for the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith on a long term basis.

In 2006, Sayo Lipman and Sebastien Lipman formed the husband and wife duo "Lipman Harp Duo". As such, they have performed extensively nationally and internationally. In 2006, they released their first CD "Harp Fusion" and have released, internationally, their second CD in late 2007 for the Naxos label. Their third CD " Arpeggio" was released in early 2009 for the Harmonious Resonance label.

In April 2008, they toured, from Brisbane to Cairns, and, in March 2009, they have undertaken their first world tour (Tokyo, Paris, Cairo, Washington, Toronto, Salt Lake City).

Sebastien Lipman

French Australian harpist, **Sebastien Lipman**, began his harp studies under the tutelage of Madame Suzanne Chardon, at the Grenoble (France) Conservatorium, at the age of only seven, while attending the intensely musically focused Berlioz primary school, and, at a later stage, the Charles Munch high school as part of the only such specialized program available in France, limited, on an audition basis, to outstanding musical talents.

He pursued his Musical training, age fifteen, in Chicago, under the expert guidance of Mr Edward Druzinsky-Solo harpist of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, while a high school exchange student in the USA, for one year.

Upon his return to France, he immediately and successfully auditioned and was accepted to enter the famed "Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris" (founded in 1796) in the class of Mr Gerard Devos, at the exceptionally young age of 16.

As a student, he participated actively in such Music camps as the Norwegian National Summer academy, and, the National Music camp in Interlochen, Michigan, (USA), where he won all available competitions, allowing him to perform as solo harpist of the World Youth Symphony Orchestra during the entire duration of the Summer, as well as a concerto soloist, in the 4000 seat Kresge auditorium and, as a Chamber Musician, as a honour recitalist.

To complete his musical studies even further, he returned to the USA, where, in 1986, he obtained an Artist Diploma with high honours, from Indiana University(USA), home of the world's largest harp department, as a student of Susann McDonald-Distinguished Professor, Artistic Director of the World Harp Congress, chair of Indiana University Harp Department, and former Professor at the Juilliard School of Music in New York.

He was the very first student to be awarded an Artist Diploma in harp in the history of Indiana University. (Often ranked as the leading music institution in the USA)

In 1985, barely twenty year old student, he competed, and became a finalist in the oldest International Harp competition, the Israel International Harp Competition, held in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

Privately, he has also had the good fortune to study with such mentors as Marielle Nordman, and Martine Geliot as well as with the legendary Lily Laskine, at the International Academy, in Nice, France.

His first engagement, in 1986, immediately upon his graduation, was as the harpist of the Norwegian Radio Orchestra, while also performing with the Norwegian Opera Orchestra, and, freelancing and touring overseas with the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra, under the direction of Mariss Jansons. (BBC Proms, France, Spain.)

For National radio networks, he has recorded extensively major solo harp repertoire, in France, Germany, Norway, South Africa and Australia, and, has, independently, released two solo CD's.

In 1987, he was appointed as Solo harpist of the 120 member strong Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, under the direction of Maestro Herbert Von Karajan. He was only the fifth harpist in the position of Principal harpist, since the creation of the orchestra in 1882, as well as the youngest member of the orchestra.

In the following years, in this tenured position, he performed, toured and recorded (Sony, Philips, etc...) extensively, with such distinguished world famous conductors such as Claudio Abbado, Daniel Barenboim, Bernard Haitink, Lorin Maazel, Riccardo Muti, Zubin Mehta, Sir Simon Rattle, Sir

Georg Solti, Andre Previn, Mariss Jansons, Seiji Ozawa, James Levine, Sir Colin Davis, Sir Yehudi Menuhin, Sir Andrew Davis, as well as with numerous extraordinary soloists such as Luciano Pavarotti, Placido Domingo, Jessye Norman, Itzhak Perlman, Mstislav Rostropovich, etc...

Touring included performances for the BBC Proms, in Royal Albert Hall (London), Carnegie Hall (New York), Suntory Hall (Tokyo), Musikverein (Vienna) as well as for the Salzburg and Luzern Festival, on numerous occasions.

Since 1995, Sebastian is based in Brisbane-Australia, where, at the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, he has developed Australia's leading harp class, composed of both Australian and overseas students.

He has served as harp tutor for MOST, and the Australian International Summer Orchestra Institute.

He combines his teaching activities in Brisbane, with master classes overseas, as well as with performances as a concerto soloist (Berlin Radio Orchestra, Norwegian Radio orchestra, Queensland Philharmonic Orchestra) and as a solo recitalist, in all Australian capital cities, as well as on all continents.

As a performer and teacher, he has been on numerous occasions, a guest of the National Music camp (Australia) and, the Fukui and Soka festivals (Japan) where he was both a performer and member of the jury for the Soka International Harp competition, playing for and meeting the Empress of Japan.

Overseas teaching activities included Trinity College-London, the Central Conservatory (Beijing-China), Taiwan, and Tokyo, as well as Indiana University where he was guest Assistant Professor, replacing Distinguished Professor Susann Mc Donald for the longest period of her first sabbatical in fifty years.

Overseas concerts include performances at London's Covent Garden Royal Opera House as guest principal harpist, at Northwestern University (Chicago), at the Kennedy Centre (Washington DC), in Tokyo and Kanazawa (Japan) and as guest principal harpist of the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra.

In 2006, Sebastien Lipman and Sayo Lipman formed the husband and wife duo "Lipman Harp Duo". As such, they have performed extensively nationally and internationally, over 100 concerts in four years. In 2006, they released their first CD "Harp Fusion" and have released their second CD, Internationally, for the Naxos label, in late 2007. They embarked on a tour from Brisbane to Cairns in April 2008. In March 2009, they undertook their first world tour, performing to great acclaim in Tokyo, Paris, Cairo, Washington DC, Toronto and Salt Lake City. Furthermore, they have recently released their third CD, entitled "Arpeggio", for the "Harmonious Resonance" label. Sebastien Lipman recently performed at the 2009 Australian Festival of Chamber Music.