

Miki Sawada

Updated December 2024

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Shortest bio (150 words)

Pianist Miki Sawada's performance made *The Boston Globe's* list "*The classical concerts that made me fall in love with live music again.*" As the founder and director of Gather Hear, Miki travels across the 50 states with a piano in a van to perform in community gathering spaces with a mission to connect with Americans across socioeconomic and political divides. Gather Hear has so far given 90+ free performances in 7 states and created three films.

Miki has been featured at venues such as: Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall, Helsinki Music Centre, The Arctic Philharmonic (Norway), Joe's Pub at the Public Theater (NYC), Portland Ovations, and Roulette (Brooklyn). She recently made her soloist debut with the North Mississippi Symphony Orchestra and Portland Columbia Symphony Orchestra. She has served as a faculty member of Heifetz Institute. Miki holds degrees from Yale School of Music, Eastman School of Music, and Northwestern University.

[www.mikisawada.com]

[www.gatherhear.com]

Short bio (262 words)

Pianist Miki Sawada, whose performance made *The Boston Globe's* list "*The classical concerts that made me fall in love with live music again,*" is known as a fearless musician who is taking classical music where others are not.

As the founder and director of Gather Hear, Miki is traveling the country state-by-state with a piano in a van to perform in community gathering spaces instead of concert halls. The mission is to connect with Americans across socioeconomic and political boundaries in this deeply divided country through music. Miki has given more than 90 free concerts in Alaska, West Virginia, Maine, Massachusetts, Utah, and Louisiana, and Alabama, and has directed films about the tours which have screened at film festivals.

When not trucking around with her own piano, Miki enjoys a career of solo and chamber music, with a special affinity for contemporary music. Miki has been featured at venues and occasions such as: Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall, Helsinki Music Centre, The

Arctic Philharmonic (Norway), the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Joe's Pub at the Public Theater (NYC), Roulette (Brooklyn), MATA Festival (NYC), Portland Ovations, Toronto Summer Music Festival, and Music on Main (Vancouver). She appears with the Chameleon Arts Ensemble in Boston, and recently made her soloist debut with the North Mississippi Symphony Orchestra and Portland Columbia Symphony Orchestra. She has served as a faculty member of the Heifetz Institute

Miki holds degrees from Yale School of Music, Eastman School of Music, and Northwestern University. She is an ultramarathon runner and finished her first 100-mile race last summer in the Oregon Cascades.

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Long Bio (418 words)

Pianist Miki Sawada, whose performance made *The Boston Globe's* list "*The classical concerts that made me fall in love with live music again,*" is known as a fearless musician who is taking classical music where others are not.

As the founder and director of Gather Hear, Miki is traveling the country state-by-state with a piano in a van to perform in community gathering spaces instead of concert halls. The mission is to connect with Americans across socioeconomic and political boundaries; through music, Gather Hear attempts to find what unites us as humans in a nation of deep divide. Miki has given more than 90 free concerts in Alaska (2017), West Virginia (2018), Massachusetts (2021), Utah (2021), Louisiana (2022), Alabama (2023), and Maine (2024), very often in rural communities where no live classical music is available. She has directed films about her tours which have screened at film festivals (Independent Film Festival Boston, No Man's Land Film Festival).

When not trucking around with her own piano, Miki enjoys a career of solo and chamber music, with a special affinity for contemporary music. Miki has been featured at venues and occasions such as: Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall, Helsinki Music Centre, The Arctic Philharmonic (Norway), the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Joe's Pub at the Public Theater (NYC), Roulette (Brooklyn), MATA Festival (NYC), Portland Ovations, Toronto Summer Music Festival, Music on Main (Vancouver), Chicago Symphony Center's Macy's Day of Music, the Banff Centre, New Music New Haven, PianoFest in the Hamptons, Art Base (Belgium), and Moulin d'Andé (France). She has been featured for live interviews and performances on WQXR (NYC), WFMT (Chicago), KUAC (Fairbanks), West Virginia Public Broadcasting (Charleston), and All Classical Portland

(Oregon). She recently made her soloist debut with the North Mississippi Symphony Orchestra and Portland Columbia Symphony Orchestra, and appears with Chameleon Arts Ensemble in Boston. She has commissioned several solo pieces with support from New Music USA, and in 2021 released her debut album “A Kind of Mirror” featuring music for piano and electronics by composer Brendon Randall-Myers.

Miki has served on the faculty of the Heifetz Institute. Miki holds degrees from Yale School of Music (Artist Diploma) with Wei-Yi Yang, Eastman School of Music (Master of Music) with Natalya Antonova and Northwestern University (Bachelor of Music) with James Giles.

Miki lives in Boston with her husband Kristopher Tong (violinist, Borromeo Quartet) and their rescue German Shepherd mix named Shakira. She is an ultramarathon runner and finished her first 100-mile race last summer in the Oregon Cascades.

[\[www.gatherhear.com\]](http://www.gatherhear.com)

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