

**Sara Davis Buechner**  
**(long biography: 850 words)**

Sara Davis Buechner is one of the leading concert pianists of our time. She has been praised worldwide as a musician of “intelligence, integrity and all-encompassing technical prowess” (*New York Times*); lauded for her “fascinating and astounding virtuosity” (*Philippine Star*), and her “thoughtful artistry in the full service of music” (*Washington Post*); and celebrated for her performances which are “never less than 100% committed and breathtaking” (*Pianoforte Magazine, London*). Japan’s *InTune* magazine says: “When it comes to clarity, flawless tempo selection, phrasing and precise control of timbre, Buechner has no superior.”

In her twenties, Ms. Buechner was the winner of a bouquet of prizes at the world’s première piano competitions -- Queen Elisabeth of Belgium, Leeds, Salzburg, Sydney and Vienna. She won the Gold Medal at the 1984 Gina Bachauer International Piano Competition, and was a Bronze Medalist of the 1986 Tschaikowsky International Piano Competition in Moscow.

With an active repertoire of more than 100 piano concertos ranging from A (Albeníz) to Z (Zimbalist) -- one of the largest of any concert pianist today -- she has appeared as soloist with many of the world’s prominent orchestras: New York, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Saint Louis, San Francisco, Montréal, Edmonton, Vancouver, Victoria, Honolulu, Qingdao and Tokyo; the CBC Radio Orchestra, Japan Philharmonic, City of Birmingham (U.K.) Symphony Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic, Moscow Radio Symphony, Kuopio (Finland) Philharmonic, Slovak Philharmonic and the Orquesta Sinfónica de Castilla y León (Spain). Audiences throughout North America have applauded Ms. Buechner’s recitals in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center and the Hollywood Bowl; and she enjoys wide success throughout Asia where she tours annually.

Sara Davis Buechner's numerous recordings have received prominent critical appraisal. The *New York Times* greeted her recent Koch International CD of piano music by Rudolf Friml as a "revelation," and devoted the front page of its Sunday Arts & Leisure section to her 1997 world première recording of the Bach-Busoni "Goldberg" Variations. Her George Gershwin album was selected as a "Record of the Month" by *Stereophile* magazine, and her traversal of Hollywood piano concertos by Bernard Herrmann and Franz Waxman won Germany's *Deutsches Schauplatten Preis* for best soundtrack. Ms. Buechner's extensive discography also includes rare American music of Dana Suesse, Pauline Alpert and Joseph Lamb, as well as the complete piano music of Miklós Rózsa. Her piano artistry may also be heard on the recent DVD of Carl Dreiser's 1925 silent film "Master of the House," available through the Criterion Collection.

Ms. Buechner can be seen and heard on numerous live video and audio recordings on her website and YouTube Channel; and she has created many essays in written, spoken and film format on her blog "Sara Says." She has recorded more than ten disks for the Yamaha Disklavier, Piano Soft and Grand Touch systems.

Sara Davis Buechner has given premières of important new music and film scores by Larry Bell, Dorothy Chang, Stephen Chatman, Pierre Charvet, John Corigliano, Richard Danielpour, Ray Green, Miriam Hyde, Dick Hyman, Vítězslavá Kaprálová, Henry Martin, Jared Miller, Joaquín Nin-Culmell, David Raksin, Miklós Rózsa, Yukiko Nishimura and Wim Zwaag. She is one of the few pianists to actively perform piano scores to silent movies, notably the 150-minute long restored version of *Ben-Hur* (1925) at Lincoln Center. Ms. Buechner has also collaborated on dance projects with choreographer Neta Pulvermacher, performance artist Nori Nke Aka, and mimist Yayoi Hirano, and toured extensively as pianist with the Mark Morris Dance Group.

Profiles of Ms. Buechner have appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *Macleans*, *Paris Match*, *Noticias del Argentina*, *Out*, *Blade* and *Frontiers* magazines; and she has been featured on the television programs *Entertainment Tonight*, *Extra*, *In the Life*, and *Bynon*. Appearances on radio include profiles on NPR's *The Fishko Files* and *Performance Today*, WFMT's Dame Myra Hess Recital Series, WNYC's *New Sounds with John Schaefer*, and CBC's *Westcoast Performance* and *Richardson's Roundup*.

In 2016 Sara Davis Buechner joined the prestigious piano faculty of Temple University in Philadelphia. She is a former faculty member of New York University and the University of British Columbia, and Honorary Visiting Professor of Music at the University of Shanghai. Ms. Buechner has presented lectures and masterclasses worldwide, notably at the Royal Academy in London, the Juilliard School in New York City, Indiana University, the Eastman School of Music, Shanghai Conservatory, and the Kobe-Yamate Gakuen in Osaka, Japan. She is a regular adjudicator of the Concert Artists Guild International Music Competition in New York, and has also served as a juror for the Rudolf Firkušný International Piano Competition in Prague, and the International E-Competition in Fairbanks, Alaska. In addition, Ms. Buechner has served as Principal Music Consultant for Dover Publications International.

She and her spouse make their home in both Philadelphia and Takatsuki, Osaka, Japan. A fan of baseball worldwide, she roots for the New York Mets and Los Angeles Dodgers, and in 2007 was anointed an honorary member of the Hanshin Tigers baseball team of Osaka, Japan.

In 2017 Sara Davis Buechner marks her 30th year as a dedicated Yamaha artist.