



The Hamamatsu International Piano Academy has been helping prepare young pianists to become concert pianists since 1996. Pianist Hiroko Nakamura is Music Director and the students receive lessons by well-known professors, and special lecture concerts. This year's Academy opened with an outstanding recital by Alessio Bax who selected a Yamaha CFIIIS for his performance.

The 30 students chosen from numerous applicants, receive one-to-one lessons from faculty including, •Hiroko Nakamura, •Alessio Bax, •Andrzej Jasinski, •Michael Krist, and Arie Vardi.

The above photo shows the students, and some professors, during a visit to Yamaha's Grand Piano Factory in Hamamatsu. They were one of the last groups to tour there as the production is moving to a new state-of-the-art facility in Kakegawa Japan.

## Hamamatsu Piano Academy Prize Winners Select Yamaha



The final event at the HIPA is a competition. It is run exactly like a major international competition and begins with a selection from pianos prepared by Yamaha, Steinway, and Kawai. This year 70% of the students selected Yamaha (with the other 30% on Steinway).

All students enter the preliminary round and 6 are selected as finalists. The jury consists of the same leading pianists as are found at top international competitions, and the students perform a concerto with piano accompaniment. This year, the top 5 finalists all choose to perform on Yamaha (the last placed finalist used a Steinway).

We congratulate all winners; Seong-Jin Cho (age 14), Ryoma Takagi (16), Jan Lisiedki (13), Misora Ozaki (13), Masataka Goto (24), and Mizuho Nakada (23). And wish them every success as they embark on their very promising musical careers.

For more information on the Academy, please visit <http://www.actcity.jp/hacam/PianoAcademy/english/index.htm>

We welcome your advice or comments. Contact us at [roger\\_manners@gmx.yamaha.com](mailto:roger_manners@gmx.yamaha.com)