

Piano News

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Makoto Ozone in Kakegawa

May 22nd Kakegawa, Japan – Jazz pianist Makoto Ozone visited Yamaha's Harmony Plaza. Artists often visit Yamaha to work with R&D, but this visit was especially memorable as Makoto gave a performance for the very people who design, market, and especially build his favorite instruments; Yamaha Pianos.



Yamaha Technology Helping Artists

At Kakegawa, the home of Yamaha pianos, Makoto met with designers to explore new musical possibilities using the cutting edge Disklavier technology. As a protégé of the late piano legend Oscar Peterson, Makoto has been asked to give several performances in tribute to the great master, and the Disklavier allows virtual duets using data from Peterson's performances.

Makoto also experimented with long distance virtual performance over the internet using the Disklavier.

Versatile Musician

Makoto is one of the busiest pianists around. In addition to jazz, he is a composer, leads Japan's top Big Band the "No Name Horses", and appears frequently as a classical soloist in front of major symphony orchestras. He is the only "Jazz" artist on the roster of the prestigious Kajimoto Management company.

His day began in Hamamatsu where he was very impressed with the latest CFIIS prototypes. He was personally greeted by Yamaha President Mick Umemura, Managing Director Hiroo Okabe, and several other company directors which shows Yamaha's appreciation of and commitment to artists.

Makoto then moved to Kakegawa for discussions with Yamaha's R&D team. The day culminated with an outstanding performance in front of Yamaha staff as well as students from Yamaha's Piano Technical Academy. The entire concert was recorded with Disklavier midi data.

For more information on Makoto <http://www.makotoozone.com/eng/>