

Ryo Sasaki, viola



Ryo Sasaki, Principal Violist with NHK Symphony Orchestra in Japan was born in Saitama Japan. Ryo Sasaki is the winner of several prestigious competitions including first prize in the Tokyo Contemporary Chamber Music competition and second prize in the Tokyo International Chamber Music competition.

After graduating from Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music, he moved to New York, and studied with Dorothy Delay and Masao Kawasaki at The Juilliard School. While he was in the United States, he was active as a chamber musician, touring Korea with the Sejong Soloists, the ensemble whom he began playing the Viola. He also participated in Marlboro and Aspen Music Festival.

Mr. Sasaki went back to Japan in 2003 to join the NHK Symphony Orchestra and became the Principal Violist in 2008.

Since his come back in Japan, he has remained active as both Soloist and Chamber Musician. He performs regularly with the Viola Space Festival in Tokyo which is run by its music director Nobuko Imai and Antoine Tamestit.

He also made his recital debut in Tokyo in 2012 which was met by critical acclaim. He is a faculty member of Toho Gakuen School of Music, Tokyo University of the Arts, Tokyo College of Music and Senzoku Gakuen College of Music.

Since 2024, he has succeeded Nobuko Imai and Antoine Tamesti as programming director of the Viola Space.