

Professional Development Opportunity with Shinichi Furuya *Brain and Body of Expert Pianists*

Sunday, May 22, 2011, 2:00–4:00 p.m.—Room 127
Free Admission; Open to the Public

Piano performance at a professional level is among the most complex of human accomplishments. Pianists need to coordinate a number of joints and muscles with both hands and arms for striking tons of keys. Acquisition of such an outstanding skill requires years of long-term training from childhood. Recent neuroimaging studies have demonstrated that pianists' brains differ in both structure and function from non-musicians. In addition, behavioral analysis of hand and arm movements during piano playing have unraveled mechanisms underlying expertise of expert pianists. In this presentation, Shinichi will talk about several representative features of pianists' brain and body, and also about pedagogical and clinical implications for pianists and piano teachers.

Shinichi Furuya studied mechanical engineering during an undergraduate course, and biomechanics and motor control of piano playing during master and PhD courses in Osaka University, Japan. His research focuses on how brain organizes a number of joints and muscles for artistic, virtuosic, and healthy piano playing. He is also a pianist with awards at several piano competitions in Japan and experiences of performing in United States. In addition, he is a translator of a book entitled "What every pianist needs to know about the body" by Thomas Mark.

Shinichi Furuya, PhD

Post-doctoral Associate, Department of Neuroscience, University of Minnesota

<http://sites.google.com/site/auditorymotor/english>



MacPhail



PARKING: The blue areas of the map marked “P” indicate parking ramps close to the MacPhail building. Metered street parking is also available.

Directions to MacPhail Center for Music 501 S. 2nd Street, Minneapolis

Directions from South (Via I-35W North)

- Take I-35W N toward MINNEAPOLIS.
- Merge onto MN-65 N via the exit on the LEFT toward Downtown Exits
- Take the 5th Ave S / MN-65 exit on the LEFT.
- Stay STRAIGHT to go onto S 5th Ave
- Continue to follow S 5th Ave
- Turn RIGHT onto S 2nd St

Directions from the East (via I-94W)

- Merge onto I-94 W
- Take the 5th St exit- EXIT 234B.
- Stay STRAIGHT to go onto S 5th St
- Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto S 11th Ave
- Turn LEFT onto S 2nd St

Directions from the West (Via I-394E)

- Merge onto I-394 E.
- Take the 3rd Ave N/Washington Ave exit
- Take the Washington Ave ramp.
- Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto N. Washington Ave.
- Turn LEFT onto S 5th Ave
- Turn RIGHT onto S 2nd St

Directions from the North (via I-35W South)

- Merge onto I-35W S.
- Take the S Washington Avenue exit.
- Turn right onto Washington Avenue S.
- Turn right onto Portland Avenue.
- Turn left onto S. 2nd St.

*For more information about events at MacPhail Center for Music
call 612-321-0100 or visit www.macphail.org*