



Hidejiro Honjo is an award-winning shamisen performer. Honjo studied under Hidetaro Honjoh and graduated from the Japanese Toho Gakuen College of Drama and Music, where he currently teaches. He has been commissioned by many composers and holds a solo recital four times a year. Honjo primarily specializes in modern music and performs with the international contemporary ensemble groups and orchestras. He has received the furtherance of the Asian Cultural Council as a grantee.

Playing the Piano for the Isolated is an emotional performance that feels like a shimmer of light within our dark, isolated world.

The session includes renditions of Sakamoto piano classics like “Merry Christmas, Mr. Lawrence” and “Perspective” as well as an improvised collaboration with young shamisen master Hidejiro Honjoh.

Sakamoto speaks candidly throughout the video:

“Social distancing is really important. Please do it. That said... being at home all the time can be tough. That’s why today we’re doing this with the hope that this can give you a little bit of solace... After the pandemic is over, I hope that this state of over-globalization and financial capitalism will slow down. I pray for a more generous world where we can feel that we are part of nature. A more gentle world.”