

Kazuki Sawa (1st Violin)

Graduated from Tokyo University of the Arts Graduate School in 1979. Received the Ataka Prize. From 1980, he continued his studies in London as an overseas trainee of the Agency for Cultural Affairs. He has won prizes at international competitions such as Long-Thibaud, Wieniawski, and Munich. He has been active internationally as a violinist, winning the Ysaÿe Medal and the Bordeaux Festival Gold Medal. In 1984, he started teaching at Tokyo University of the Arts and began his full-fledged performance career. In 1989, he was dispatched to the Royal Academy of Music in London as an overseas researcher of the Ministry of Education, where he furthered his studies. During this period, he met members of the Amadeus String Quartet and decided to form the Sawa Quartet. He began conducting in 1996, and has been the permanent conductor of the Senri Philharmonia Osaka since 1998. He has also performed as a guest with the Kyushu Symphony Orchestra, Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, Japan Philharmonic Orchestra, Sapporo Symphony Orchestra, Kioi Hall Chamber Orchestra, and others, and has received acclaim. In 2004, he received the Wakayama Prefecture Cultural Award. He is the president of Tokyo University of the Arts from 2016 to March 2022. He is currently a visiting professor at Showa University of Music, and a professor emeritus at Tokyo University of the Arts and the Royal Academy of Music.

Hiroaki Oseki (2nd Violin)

Graduated from Kunitachi College of Music in 1972. While studying there, he passed the audition to join the Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra in the Netherlands, and joined immediately after graduation. He then joined the Mannheim State Opera Orchestra in Germany in 1975 and the Bamberg Symphony Orchestra in 1976. In 1979, he was invited to return to Japan as concertmaster of the Gunma Symphony Orchestra. He has participated in the Kusatsu International Music Festival since its inception in 1980, and has performed with many world-famous artists. He left the Gunma Symphony Orchestra in 1987 and began teaching at his alma mater, the Kunitachi College of Music, where he served as a professor until 2015. He was a lecturer at Tokyo University of the Arts for six years until 2015. He was a leader of Toyota City Junior Orchestra from its founding until 2017, and a member of the Kioi Hall Chamber Orchestra.

Toshihiko Ichitsubo (Viola)

After graduating from Tokyo University of the Arts High School and the university, he completed his graduate studies at the university in 1992. He won the Ataka Prize at the university and performed Bartok's Viola Concerto with the Tokyo University of the Arts Philharmonic, attracting attention. In addition to his activities as a member of the Sawa Quartet while he was a student, he is currently a member of the Kioi Hall Chamber Orchestra and the Tokyo Kreis Ensemble, and is actively involved in performances, including collaborations with world-renowned artists such as Rainer Honeck (violin) and Antoine Tamestit (viola). He is also actively involved in nurturing the next generation of musicians, having been invited as a lecturer to the "Viola School" led by Nobuko Imai, and to seminars and music festivals in Italy, such as Cupra. Professor at Tokyo University of the Arts, and part-time lecturer at Okinawa Prefectural University of the Arts.

Toshiaki Hayashi (Cello)

After graduating from Toho Gakuen High School, he went to Boston University and then to Europe. He studied under masters such as Navarra and Fournier. He graduated with honors from the Santa Cecilia Conservatory. During that time, he won and received prizes in numerous international competitions as a duo with his wife, pianist Yukako Hayashi, and performed mainly in Italy as Duo Hayashi. He also spent two years with Virtuosi di Roma and served as a special contract member of the National Santa Cecilia Orchestra for seven years. In 1987, he was appointed principal cellist of the Osaka Philharmonic Orchestra and returned to Japan. He was concertmaster for the 2nd to 4th "1000 Cello Concerts." Since 2003, he has been regularly invited to international music festivals around Italy, and in 2011, he was awarded the Giordaniello Prize by the city of Fermo, Italy, in recognition of his long-standing activities. In 2013, he founded the Duo Hayashi International Competition in Italy. He has been a lecturer in the cello and chamber music departments of Tokyo University of the Arts for 18 years, and will be a professor at Tokushima Bunri University until 2022. He is a member of the Kioi Hall Chamber Orchestra.