YURIE TAKANO

SOPRANO



Artistic dossier

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At a glance

Japanese soprano **Yurie Takano** brings a luminous voice and assured stage presence to roles such as Cio-Cio-San in *Madama Butterfly* and Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni*, both sung under Yutaka Sado at the Hyogo Performing Arts Center. She has sung Adina in *L'elisir d'amore* in Tokyo, Sakai and Kyoto. She won first prize at the 2026 Franco Bonisolli International Singing Competition and has recorded two albums for Nippon Columbia.

Biography

Japanese soprano **Yurie Takano is gaining momentum on the opera stages of her native Japan**, where her luminous voice and assured stage presence have made Cio-Cio-San a signature role. When she made her role debut in *Madama Butterfly* at the Hyogo Performing Arts Center, Japanese critics singled out the conviction with which she conveyed the heroine's hope.

In Nishinomiya, Takano works regularly with **Yutaka Sado**, artistic director of the Hyogo Performing Arts Center. A former assistant to Leonard Bernstein and Seiji Ozawa, he has served as principal conductor of the Orchestre Lamoureux in Paris and conducted the Berlin Philharmonic. Under his baton, Takano drew attention as Hanna Glawari in *The Merry Widow* in 2021 and returned as Donna Anna in *Don Giovanni* and Cio-Cio-San. Each of these three productions sold out all eight performances in the centre's 2,001-seat Grand Hall.

Mozart has featured in her career since her student days, when she sang Dorabella in *Così fan tutte* at Tokyo's Nissay Theatre with the Yomiuri Nippon Symphony Orchestra. In 2024, she sang Fiordiligi in Act I in a performance for young audiences at ROHM Theatre Kyoto with the Seiji Ozawa Music Academy. She also covered Fiordiligi in the main production and prepared the complete role. She also appeared there as Adina in *L'elisir d'amore*, a co-production presented at Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre and Fenice Sacay near Osaka.

In 2015 and 2017, Yurie Takano sang in the presence of the Emperor and Empress of Japan. On the concert stage, she sang in Mendelssohn's incidental music for *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with the Kyoto Symphony Orchestra at ROHM Theatre Kyoto. In Tokyo, she was the soprano soloist in Bernstein's Third Symphony, *Kaddish*, at Suntory Hall with the New Japan Philharmonic under Yutaka Sado. In 2025 she again joined Sado for Beethoven's Ninth Symphony at the opening celebrations of Expo 2025 in Osaka, with a choir of around 10,000 singers. She has also performed with the George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra in Bucharest and at the Palermo Classica International Festival in Italy.

Nippon Columbia has released both her albums. In *Cantares* (2020), she and pianist Satoko Yoshimoto explore the folk idioms of Spanish art song, from Falla to Montsalvatge. For *Cantar del Alma* (2022), she chose songs of hope, from the intimacy of Richard Strauss's *Morgen!* to the affirmation of *You'll Never Walk Alone*.

She also appears on Japanese television. On TV Asahi she sang "Tonight" from *West Side Story* with baritone Takaoki Onishi and the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra under Masato Suzuki. On BS TV Tokyo she performed arias from Kálmán's *The Csárdás Princess* and Lehár's *Giuditta*. In January 2026, she sang the *La traviata* drinking song with tenor Ken Nishikiori at the **NHK New Year Opera Concert**.

Originally from Toyama, Yurie Takano graduated first in her class at Tokyo College of Music at both undergraduate and master's level. She studied with Elisabeth Phinney in Boston and at the Santa Cecilia Conservatory in Rome, then completed the *Certificate of Performance* at the Music and Arts University of the City of Vienna, where she pursued further opera studies.

A winner of the Student Music Concours of Japan and the NHK Prize, she received the *Kitanippon Shimbun* Arts Award and the Hiroyuki Iwaki Music Award in 2025. In 2026, she won second prize in the vocal division of the Città di Belluno International Music Competition and **first prize at the Franco Bonisolli International Singing Competition** at the Teatro Zandonai in Rovereto.

Opera performances

DATE	WORK	ROLE	VENUE · ARTISTIC TEAM
7 & 8 Mar 2026	Pagliacci · Leoncavallo	Nedda	Konno Hachimangū Shrine, Tokyo · Tetsu Taoshita, stage director · Natsuko Nishioka, conductor musicale et Electone
18 Jan 2026	L'elisir d'amore · Donizetti	Adina	ROHM Theatre Kyoto · Kyoto Symphony Orchestra · Sebastiano Rolli, conductor · Kunio Sugihara, stage director
16 Nov 2025	L'elisir d'amore · Donizetti	Adina	Fenice Sacay, Sakai · Osaka Symphony Orchestra · Sebastiano Rolli, conductor · Kunio Sugihara, stage director
9 Nov 2025	L'elisir d'amore · Donizetti	Adina	Tokyo Metropolitan Theatre · The Opera Band · Sebastiano Rolli, conductor · Kunio Sugihara, stage director
13, 15, 18 & 21 Jul 2024	Madama Butterfly · Puccini	Cio-Cio-San	Hyogo Performing Arts Center · Yutaka Sado, conductor · Masayoshi Kuriyama, stage director
12 Mar 2024	Così fan tutte · Mozart	Fiordiligi	Act I, performance for young audiences · ROHM Theatre Kyoto · Diego Matheuz, conductor · David Kneuss, stage director. Cover for the role in the main production.
15, 17, 20 & 23 Jul 2023	Don Giovanni · Mozart	Donna Anna	Hyogo Performing Arts Center · Yutaka Sado, conductor · David Kneuss, stage director
2022	A Midsummer Night's Dream · Britten	Helena	Theater Akzent, Vienna · Niels Muus, conductor · Kateryna Sokolova, stage director
16, 18, 21 & 24 Jul 2021	Die lustige Witwe · Lehár	Hanna Glawari	Hyogo Performing Arts Center · Yutaka Sado, conductor · Isao Hirowatari, stage director
2021	Die Fledermaus · Johann Strauss II	Rosalinde	Totsuka Sakura Plaza Hall, Yokohama · Leiki Kose, piano
10 Nov 2018	Così fan tutte · Mozart	Dorabella	Nissay Theatre, Tokyo · Tomo Sugao, stage director

Concerts and oratorios

Symphonic concerts and oratorios

YEAR	WORK / PROGRAMME	VENUE · CONDUCTOR
2025	Symphony No. 9 · Beethoven	Expo 2025 opening celebrations, Osaka · Yutaka Sado · Choir of approximately 10,000 singers
2025	Symphony No. 3 « Kaddish » · Bernstein	Suntory Hall, Tokyo · New Japan Philharmonic · Yutaka Sado
2023	Theresienmesse · Haydn	Kensuke Ohira
2022	The Three-Cornered Hat · Manuel de Falla	Sachio Fujioka
2021	St Matthew Passion · Bach	Maiku Shibata
2021	Stabat Mater · Pergolèse	Richard Josef Sigmund
2021	A Midsummer Night's Dream · Mendelssohn	ROHM Theatre Kyoto · Kyoto Symphony Orchestra · Junichi Hirokami
2021–2025	Symphony No. 9 · Beethoven	Various performances
2017	Paukenmesse · Haydn	Daisuke Soga
2015	Requiem in D minor · Mozart	Daisuke Soga

Upcoming performances

DATE	WORK / PROGRAMME	VENUE · ARTISTIC TEAM
6 Dec 2026	Symphony No. 9 · Beethoven	Osaka-jō Hall · Suntory 10,000-Voice Concert
13 Dec 2026	Recital	Culture Palace, Hitoyoshi
16–22 Dec 2026	Symphony No. 9 · Beethoven	Seven performances · New Japan Philharmonic · Yutaka Sado
13 Feb 2027	Duo recital	Osaka · With baritone Yuki Kuroda

Concerts and oratorios

Appearances with international orchestras

DATE	VENUE / FESTIVAL	ORCHESTRA · CONDUCTOR
Feb 2026	Teatro Zandonai, Rovereto · Franco Bonisolli Competition final	Orchestra Sinfonica delle Alpi · Francesco Rosa
19 & 20 Sep 2025	Palermo Classica International Festival · Steri Concert Hall, Palermo	Palermo Classica Symphony Orchestra · Sol Chin
4 May 2025	Gargantua Music Festival · Ishikawa Ongakudo, Kanazawa	Vietnam National Symphony Orchestra · Tetsuji Honna
23 Nov 2017	Japan tour · Beethoven's Ninth Symphony	Braşov Philharmonic Orchestra · Daisuke Soga
31 mars & 1 Apr 2016	Romanian Athenaeum, Bucharest	George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra · Daisuke Soga

Repertoire

Roles performed on stage

COMPOSER	WORK	ROLE
Britten	A Midsummer Night's Dream	Helena
Donizetti	L'elisir d'amore	Adina
Johann Strauss II	Die Fledermaus	Rosalinde
Lehár	Die lustige Witwe	Hanna Glawari
Leoncavallo	Pagliacci	Nedda
Mozart	Così fan tutte	Dorabella (2018)
Mozart	Così fan tutte	Fiordiligi (Act I, 2024)
Mozart	Don Giovanni	Donna Anna
Puccini	Madama Butterfly	Cio-Cio-San

Roles of interest

COMPOSER	WORK	ROLE
Gounod	Faust	Marguerite
Mozart	Don Giovanni	Donna Elvira
Mozart	Le nozze di Figaro	Countess Almaviva
Puccini	La bohème	Mimì, Musetta
Puccini	Suor Angelica	Suor Angelica
Puccini	Turandot	Liù
Weber	Der Freischütz	Agathe

Repertoire

Opera, operetta and concert arias

COMPOSER	WORK / EXCERPT
Catalani	La Wally – Ebben? Ne andrò lontana
Chapí	Las hijas del Zebedeo – Carceleras
Dvořák	Rusalka – Měsíčku na nebi hlubokém
Gounod	Faust – Ah! je ris de me voir si belle
Humperdinck	Hänsel und Gretel – Abends, will ich schlafen gehn (duet)
Korngold	Die tote Stadt – Marietta's Song (Glück, das mir verblieb)
Kálmán	Die Csárdásfürstin – Heia, heia, in den Bergen
Lehár	Giuditta – Meine Lippen, sie küssen so heiß; Ich weiß es selber nicht
Lehár	Die lustige Witwe – Vilja-Lied
Massenet	Hérodiade – Il est doux, il est bon
Mozart	Idomeneo – Padre, germani, addio!
Mozart	Alma grande e nobil core, K. 578 (concert aria)
Piazzolla	María de Buenos Aires – Yo soy María
Puccini	La bohème – Sì, mi chiamano Mimì; Quando me'n vo'
Puccini	Gianni Schicchi – O mio babbino caro
Puccini	Madama Butterfly – Un bel dì vedremo
Rossini	Il barbiere di Siviglia – Una voce poco fa
Verdi	La traviata – Libiamo ne' lieti calici (duet)

Repertoire

Spanish and Latin American art songs

COMPOSER	WORK / EXCERPT
Falla	Siete canciones populares españolas – El paño moruno; Seguidilla murciana; Asturiana; Jota; Nana; Canción; Polo (complete cycle)
Lara	Granada
Mompou	Cantar del Alma
Montsalvatge	Cinco canciones negras – Canción de cuna para dormir a un negrito; Canto negro
Obradors	Canciones clásicas españolas – El vito; Dos cantares populares (Del cabello más sutil); Coplas de Curro Dulce
Turina	Poema en forma de canciones – Cantares; Las locas por amor
Turina	Tríptico – Farruca
Velázquez, Consuelo	Bésame mucho

Sacred songs

COMPOSER	WORK / EXCERPT
Fauré	Requiem – Pie Jesu
Gómez, William	Ave Maria
Traditional / Newton	Amazing Grace

Repertoire

Lieder and art songs

COMPOSER	WORK / EXCERPT
Arditi	Il bacio
Berg	Sieben frühe Lieder (complete cycle) – Nacht; Schilflied; Die Nachtigall; Traumgekrönt; Im Zimmer; Liebesode; Sommertage
Dowland	Come again
Hahn	À Chloris
Korngold	Four Shakespeare Songs, Op. 31 – Blow, Blow, Thou Winter Wind; When Birds Do Sing
Liszt	Die Loreley
Mahler	Urlicht (Des Knaben Wunderhorn)
Mendelssohn	Auf Flügeln des Gesanges, Op. 34, No. 2
R. Strauss	Morgen!; Allerseelen; Nichts
Satie	Je te veux
Schubert	Du bist die Ruh, D. 776
Schumann	Widmung, Op. 25, No. 1
Stevenson / Moore	'Tis the Last Rose of Summer

Repertoire

Musical theatre and cabaret

COMPOSER	WORK / EXCERPT
Arlen	The Wizard of Oz – Over the Rainbow
Bernstein	Arias and Barcarolles (with Yuki Kuroda)
Bernstein	West Side Story – I Feel Pretty; Tonight (duet); Somewhere
Bernstein	On the Town – Lucky to Be Me
Bolcom	Cabaret Songs – Waitin'; Amor
Gershwin	Girl Crazy – I Got Rhythm
Loewe	My Fair Lady – I Could Have Danced All Night
Løvland	You Raise Me Up
Morricone, Andrea	Cinema Paradiso – Love Theme
Rodgers	Carousel – You'll Never Walk Alone
Rodgers	The Sound of Music – My Favorite Things; Edelweiss; Climb Ev'ry Mountain
Schönberg, C.-M.	Les Misérables – On My Own (Éponine)
Sondheim	A Little Night Music – Send in the Clowns
Weill	One Touch of Venus – I'm a Stranger Here Myself
Weill	Youkali

Repertoire

Japanese songs and film music

COMPOSER	WORK / EXCERPT
Hirai, Kozaburo	Unubore kagami (The Vain Mirror)
Hisaishi, Joe	Furusato no sora (Sky of My Hometown); Inochi no namae (The Name of Life)
Kawae, Minako	Yasashisa o oshiete (duet)
Kimura, Yumi	Itsumo nando demo (Always with Me)
Kobayashi, Hideo	Karamatsu (Larch Trees)
Murai, Kunihiko	Tsubasa o kudasai (Give Me Wings)
Nakada, Yoshinao	Mukō mukō
Sawatake, Noriyuki	Iso no ue no tsumama o mireba
Takemitsu, Tōru	Utau dake; Tsubasa; Ashita wa hare kana, kumori kana; Meguriai; Chiisana sora
Tada, Ryō	Yoimachigusa (Evening Primrose)
Yamada, Kōsaku	Arazaramu
Traditional	Kokiriko-bushi; Mura matsuri

Videos and discography

VIDEO	LINK
L'elisir d'amore · Gaetano Donizetti	Watch on Instagram
"Libiamo ne' lieti calici" (Drinking Song) · *La traviata* by Giuseppe Verdi	Watch on YouTube
A Question Of Honour · Frank Peterson Opening: "Ebben? Ne andrò lontana" (*La Wally*, Alfredo Catalani). Theme associated with Japan's national football team	Watch from 0:23

Discography

YEAR	ALBUM
2022	*Cantar del Alma* (Song of the Soul) · Nippon Columbia
2020	*Cantares* · Nippon Columbia, Opus One series

Official discography · Yurie Takano's official website

Selected press

Excerpts in English translation

Akio Tōjō · 2023

Don Giovanni · Hyogo

“A first-rate Donna Anna who could appear on any stage.”

Opera Express · Mika Iuchi · 2024

Madama Butterfly · Hyogo

“In ‘Un bel dì vedremo’, her singing conveys Butterfly’s wholehearted faith in Pinkerton’s love and in their marriage.”

Il Giornale della Musica · 2026

Franco Bonisolli Competition · Rovereto

“Japanese prizewinner Yurie Takano moved the audience with ‘Un bel dì vedremo’ from Madama Butterfly.”

intoxicate / Mikiki · Tetsuya Higashibata · 2022

Cantar del Alma · Over the Rainbow

“Her approach as an opera singer works wonders.”

Yutaka Sado on the album

“On stage, Yurie Takano captivates an entire hall. Here, she seems to be singing to just one listener.”

Nippon Columbia · Cantar del Alma

Contact

Silence Agency
Tristan Remacle
tristan@silence-agency.com · +33 (0)6 85 63 19 43
Paris and Aix-en-Provence, France.