

Yuriko Koyanagi - Professional Biography

Coloratura soprano Yuriko Koyanagi brings a distinctive emotional depth and dramatic intensity to the classical opera repertoire. Her interpretations are marked by a profound commitment to understanding and transmitting the emotional core of each work—a quality developed through her extensive background in world music and dance, which informs her approach to operatic performance with unusual physicality and expressive nuance.

Yuriko's recent achievements include her critically received concert "The Glorious Facets of Heart" at Vienna's prestigious Brahms Hall, Musikverein (2022), where she performed a demanding program featuring Handel's *Lotario* ("Scherza in mar la navicella"), *Partenope* ("Si Scherza si" and "Voglio dire al mio tesoro"), Rossini's "La carità," and Vitali's "Chaconne in G minor"—the latter featuring her own choreographed improvisation as a solo dancer. This Vienna debut represented a significant milestone in her artistic journey, following her 2021 solo recital "A Blissful Landing on the Stage" at Tokyo's Kioicho Salon Hall, where she presented Bach's Cantata BWV 51 ("Jauchzet Gott in allen Landen"), Handel's *Giulio Cesare* and *Partenope*, Lehár's *Giuditta*, and Rossini.

Her operatic repertoire encompasses a wide range from Baroque to late Romantic works, with particular strength in Handel (having performed roles and arias from *Partenope*, *Giulio Cesare*, *Lotario*, and the oratorio *Samson*), as well as Mozart (*Die Zauberflöte*), Verdi (*Rigoletto*), Bizet (*Carmen*), Gounod (*Faust*), and Lehár (*Giuditta*). She has also distinguished herself in sacred repertoire, performing Bach's cantatas BWV 51 and BWV 204. Notably, Yuriko has composed cadenzas for several Handel arias, demonstrating her deep engagement with historical performance practice and stylistic understanding.

Yuriko's training reflects an intensive, focused approach to vocal development through private study with established professionals. From 2013 to 2022, she trained weekly with S. Hojo in Tokyo, a graduate of Tokyo University of the Arts and member of Tokyo Nikikai Opera Foundation, specializing in opera, musical theater, and cantata repertoire. She subsequently studied with T. Otokozawa, also a Tokyo University of the Arts graduate and member of Tokyo Nikikai Opera Foundation, who brought expertise in Italian opera, particularly Verdi's dramatic roles, having performed in major Japanese productions including *The Phantom of the Opera*. In preparation for her Vienna concert, she trained with Ina Voice Studio, whose Estill Voice Training has been recognized by the Metropolitan Opera in New York, focusing on Italian lyric pronunciation and the integration of emotion and dramatic expression. Currently, she continues her development with Emiliano Blasi in Rome (2025-present), concentrating on Italian opera, particularly Handel's Italian-language works, and refining her linguistic authenticity.

What distinguishes Yuriko's path is her foundation in world performing arts—including Japanese folk dance and Indian tribal and Bollywood performance—which she pursued extensively between 2016 and 2019. This cross-cultural artistic exploration has given her a unique perspective on operatic interpretation, bringing heightened awareness of physical expression, rhythmic complexity, and the universal language of emotional storytelling to

her vocal work. Her commitment to cultural immersion extends beyond performance: she has traveled extensively to deepen her understanding of the contexts that shaped classical music, including annual summer visits to Bonn, Germany (2015-2018) to explore German musical tradition, as well as extended periods in Rome and Paris. Most recently, she spent five weeks in Greece (summer 2025) working with her voice teacher to develop new repertoire, immersing herself in Greek myth and drama as preparation for Handel's *Teseo* and *Scipione*—the latter exploring the love story of the Roman commander Scipio and a Spanish heroine. Her transition to focused operatic study represents not an abandonment of these roots, but rather their synthesis into a richer, more expansive approach to classical repertoire.

Through Yuriko Performing Arts, her production company, she has produced and presented solo recitals at prestigious venues including Vienna's Musikverein and Tokyo's Kioicho Salon Hall, demonstrating both artistic vision and the entrepreneurial commitment to creating performance opportunities. Her performances have spanned private engagements and public concerts, including appearances at Beten music competition in Tokyo (2019).

Yuriko performs in Italian, German, English, French, and Japanese. She is currently developing new repertoire with her voice teacher in Rome, with particular focus on deepening her command of Italian pronunciation and style.