

YASKO FUJII biography

Japanese lyric soprano, Yasko Fujii, is recognized for her warm voice and dramatic intensity.

Born in Hiroshima, Yasko began studying the piano at the age of two and the flute at nine years old, and won first prize at the National Competition for Wind. At a young age she started working as piano accompanist for singing courses at the NHK Cultural Center. After graduating in International Policy Management at Keio University in Tokyo, she received a degree in singing at the Japan Opera Foundation. Yasko made her debut as Dorabella in *Così Fan Tutte*, followed by Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro* by Mozart, Lucy in the *Telephone* by Menotti, and Micaela in *Carmen* by Bizet.

Finalist of the Italian speech contest (Tokyo) and finalist in the International Opera Competition Giuseppe Di Stefano (Sicily), she arrived in Italy as a fellow of the Italian Government, studying at the Accademia Filarmonica di Bologna. The major part of her operatic repertory was prepared by maestro Joseph Giardina in Rome.

After winning the First Prize at the International Opera Competition of Saluzzo and a scholarship from the selection of Foggia Experimental Opera in collaboration with Teatro Petruzzelli in Bari she has performed lead roles throughout Europe, the USA and Asia in the following operatic works:

Madama Butterfly - Manon Lescaut - La Bohème - Turandot - Gianni Schicchi by Puccini, Pagliacci by Leoncavallo, Don Giovanni - Le Nozze di Figaro - Apollo et Hyacinthus by Mozart, Andrea Chenier by Giordano, Jago by C. Pedini, Decameron by American composer's Forum, and more.

Some of the theatres Yasko has sung in include: Municipal Theatre of Galati, Teatro Caio Melisso of Spoleto, Teatro Verdi of Trieste, Teatro dell' Opera of Rome, Festival Umberto Giordano of Foggia, Teatro Marrucino of Chieti, Al Bustan Festival of Beyruth, The Mozart Festival of Chieti, Fukuyama City Opera, International Opera Theater and Prince Theater of Philadelphia.

In the symphonic repertoire, she has appeared as soloist in : Beethoven's Symphony no.9 (Hiroshima), Paukenmesse by Haydn (Portugal Insitue in Rome), Baptisma by Bartolucci (Portugal Insitue in Rome), Stabat Mater by Pergolesi (Blatislava Solisten), Messa da Requiem by Mozart (Festival di Pasqua in Rome), Cantata BWV.51-61 by Bach (Birth of Rome Festival), Messa da Requiem by Verdi (Tokyo Metropolitan Theater) Her gifted voice is also popular in Italian tv through the long running TV show, "Avanti Un Altro!".