

Princess Anio Opera Project

Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Vietnam

Main Cast Presentation to be held on June 3rd in Hanoi, Vietnam

Presenting Four Soloist (each double cast) playing Princess Anio and Araki Sotaro

World premiere at Hanoi Opera House in September 2023!



In commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations between Japan and Vietnam in 2023, the Vietnam National Symphony Orchestra and the Princess Anio Executive Committee (Brain Group, Yamaha Music Vietnam Company Limited, and the Association of International Exchange) have announced the production and premiere of a new opera titled *Princess Anio*.

This project aims both to promote exchange and friendship between Japan and Vietnam as well as to propel their respective cultures of music forward. The world premiere will take place at the Hanoi Opera House in September 2023.

The story of the opera revolves around the romance between Araki Sotaro, a merchant from Nagasaki, Japan, and Princess Anio from Hoi An, Vietnam, during the trading era of the *Shuinsen* in the early 17th century.

Japan and Vietnam have historically had a strong, trusting, and frank relationship. The production of this opera aims to create a lasting symbol of the further deepening of relations between the two countries for the next 50, 100 years into the future.

Following the project press conference last year in December, this press conference will present the four soloists who will play the lead roles of Princess Anio and Araki Sotaro (double cast). These young, talented singers from Japan and Vietnam will challenge themselves with this historical work of art.

This project welcomes Yamada Takio, Japanese Ambassador in Vietnam, as its Honorary Advisor, and is supported by the Embassy of Japan in Vietnam, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam, the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Vietnam, and many organizations related to Japan and Vietnam.

Official Website URL : <https://anio-opera.jp>

QR Code :



< Project Summary >

Information as of June 3rd, 2022



Princess Anio Opera Project

A new opera, based on the history of diplomacy between the two countries nurtured from ancient times!

Project goals: To promote Japan-Vietnam culture exchange and friendship through music

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Japan and Vietnam

To further develop the two countries' friendship through musical exchange

To create a moving work based on the history of the two countries

Led by:

Princess Anio Executive Committee



(Brain Group, Yamaha Music Vietnam, Association of International Exchange)

Joint hosting: Vietnam National Symphony Orchestra



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Honorary advisor: Yamada Takio (Ambassador of Japan to Vietnam)

Representative: Honna Tetsuji (Vietnam National Symphony Orchestra Music Director and Principal Conductor)

Co-representative: Trinh Tung Linh
(Director of Vietnam National Symphony Orchestra)

Furukawa Naomasa
(Chairman of the Princess Anio Executive Committee)

Support:

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Vietnam, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Vietnam, Embassy of Japan in Vietnam, Vietnam Musicians' Association, Quang Nam Province, Nagasaki Prefecture, Hoi An City, The Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Vietnam, The Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Ho Chi Minh City, The Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Da Nang, The Japan Foundation Center for Cultural Exchange in Vietnam

Sponsorship: Platinum Supporters



Acecook Vietnam Joint Stock Company, Idemitsu Kosan Co., Ltd.,
Toyota Motor Vietnam Co., Ltd., Daiwa House Industry Co., Ltd.

Gold Supporters

Eneos Vietnam Co., Ltd., Becamex Tokyu Co., Ltd.,
Nippon Steel Metal Products Vietnam Co., Ltd.

Collaboration: Yokohama Minato Mirai Hall (Yokohama Arts Foundation), Almond Co., Ltd.,
Kajimoto, Roygent Parks Hanoi, GMO-Z.com RUNSYSTEM

< Production >

General Director: Honna Tetsuji
Composer: Tran Manh Hung
Drama: New Opera Princess Anio Project Production Team
Drama Lyrics (in Japanese): Oyama Daisuke
Lyrics (in Vietnamese): Ha Quang Minh
Director: Oyama Daisuke
Performers: Dao To Loan (Princess Anio), Bui Thi Trang (Princess Anio),
Kobori Yusuke (Araki Sotaro), Yamamoto Kohei (Araki Sotaro)
Co-production: Vietnam National Symphony Orchestra,
Vietnam National Opera and Ballet
Production Advisor: Tran Ly Ly
Key Visual: Ando Saeko
Stage Engineering: Art Creation Co., Ltd.
Historical Experts: Phan Hai Linh, Tomoda Hiromichi, Fukukawa Yuichi, Kikuchi Seiichi,
Ando Katsuhiko, Honma Sadao

General Producer: Furukawa Naomasa
Producer: Trinh Tung Linh, Tani Makoto, Sasaki Shinji
Project Cooperation: Embassy of Japan in Vietnam

Profiles of Main Cast:

Princess Anio
Dao To Loan, Soprano



A multi-talented soprano singer, Dao To Loan from Thai Nguyen performs not only opera, but also many other genres ranging from pop to Vietnamese traditional music and folk songs and has appeared as a soloist in national and international events.

She started studying singing in 2006 and received a scholarship to study in Germany in 2012. In 2016 she graduated with a master's degree in Vocal Performance from Vietnam National Academy of Music. She has studied under Associate Professor Tran Thi Ngoc Lan and professors from Norway, Australia, and Canada.

Dao To Loan has won the First Prize at the Sao Mai National Singing Contest (2011), the First Prize and Audience Award at the Lidal North International Opera Workshop in Oslo (2014), the First Prize at the Singapore Lyric Opera - ASEAN Vocal Competition (2018), the Second Prize at the Vietnam Opera Contest and the Gold Medal at the Duong 9 xanh Singing Contest (2019), as well as the Third Prize at the MAP International Music Competition in the United States (2021).

Princess Anio
Bui Thi Trang Soprano



A soprano singer from Thai Nguyen, Bui Thi Trang graduated in 2018 with a master's degree in Vocal Performance from Vietnam National Academy of Music, under the guidance of Professor and People's Artist Trung Kien.

A member of the Vietnam National Opera and Ballet since 2013, she has performed as a soloist in numerous concerts. Her opera performances include Dorabella in *Così fan tutte*, María in *María de Buenos Aires*, Frasquita in *Carmen*, H' Nuon in *The Sculptor* by Do Nhuan, and Fantine in *Les Misérables*. She has also participated in many art events held by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of Vietnam in Korea, Thailand, and Russia.

Bui Thi Trang has received the Gold Medal at the National Professional Music and Dance Festival (2021), the Second Prize at the Thai Nguyen Television Singing Festival (2010) and the Participation Award at the National Opera and Chamber Music Singing Competition (2019).

Names are listed in Vietnamese alphabetical order

Araki Sotaro
Kobori, Yusuke Tenor



Originally from Fukushima prefecture. Graduated top of the class in the undergraduate Vocal Music course and the Graduate School Opera Course at the Kunitachi College of Music. Completed opera training in the 2015 cohort at the New National Theatre Tokyo. Finished 2nd in the Vocal Section at the 16th Tokyo Music Competition in 2018. Winner of many awards, including 1st place in the Vocal Section at the 88th Music Competition of Japan in 2019. Studied in Bologna under the Agency for Cultural Affairs' Program of Overseas Study for Upcoming Artists. Studied at the Accademia Rossiniana in Pesaro and the Rossini Opera Academy in Lunenburg in 2016, receiving instruction from the conductor Alberto Zedda. Made his European debut as Lindoro in *L'italiana in Algeri* at the Tyrol Festival Theatre. After returning to Japan, his first appearance was as Tonio in *La fille du régiment* at Biwako Hall, followed by other roles including Don Ramiro in the Fujiwara Opera's performance of *La Cenerentola* and Nemorino in the Nissay Theatre's performance of *L'elisir d'amore*. Member of the Japan Rossini Society.

Araki Sotaro
Yamamoto, Kohei Tenor



Originally from Tottori prefecture. Graduated top of the class from the Graduate School of Tokyo University of the Arts, Kohei Yamamoto continued his studies in Italy. He has won many awards, including the Milano Grand Prize at the Concorso di Lirica Italiana and the First Prize and the Best Singing Award at the Concorso Vocale Italo-Giapponese. Among his most acclaimed opera performances are the title role in the Nikikai's *Don Carlo*, the Duke of Mantua in *Rigoletto*, Kashiwagi in the *Kinkakuji* directed by Amon Miyamoto, Alwa in *Lulu*, and Tebaldo in *I Capuleti e in Montecchi* at the Nissay Theatre. As a concert soloist, he has received high praise for his performances of Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony*, Bach's *Mass in B minor* and Rossini's *Petite messe solennelle*. He has often appeared in media, including programs such as *NHK New Year Opera Concert*, *La La La Classic* and *Tokyo Silvester Concert*. Yamamoto has released two solo albums: *Mi manchi* and *Non t'amo più*. In 2013 he participated in CHANEL Pygmalion Days. He has been appointed as Tourism Ambassador for Yonago City and Tottori Furusato Ambassador and is a member of Nikikai.

Names are listed in Japanese alphabetical order by last names

Contact information:

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Please contact us via the official website inquiry page.

Official Website URL: <https://anio-opera.jp>



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