

HARMONIA OPERA COMPANY

Only Japanese Opera Company in the United States

Founded in 1981 by Emiko Iinuma

2008 Recipient of Foreign Minister's Award (July 11, 2008)

5 Gold Stars Award for "Live Broadcast Performance" at Kennedy Center (April 10, 2010)

www.kennedy-center.org/millennium

FBI Award Plaque for participation at the Asian Pacific American Celebration (May 20, 2010)

New Jersey State Legislature Resolution from Senator Kevin O'Toole (October 1, 2010)

Senator Loretta Weinberg (October 1, 2010)

presents

Best Operas Performed In Last 30 Years

YUZURU

Great Masterpiece Opera Composed by Ikuma Dan • Story by Junji Kinoshita

and

A STORY OF THREE WOMEN

Award Winning Opera by Sadao Bekku, Composer; Libretto by Matsuko Suzuki

Thursday, September 22, 2011, 8:00 p.m.

Merkin Concert Hall

Kaufman Center

Abraham Goodman House, 129 West 67th Street, New York, NY 10023

Featuring Principal Singers & Dancers

CHIZURU NIHEI, dramatic soprano • EMIKO IINUMA, soprano • TERESA MAI, soprano

MIYUKI HASHIMOTO, soprano • CRISTINA GONZÁLEZ, soprano

CHIZURU TANAKA, dancer & singer • RIE HATANAKA, dancer & singer

MIO NAKANISHI, singer & dancer • BRIAN HENRY, singer & dancer

HÉCTOR PALACIO, tenor • STEFANOS KORONEOS, baritone

DONGHYUN PARK, baritone • JAE WOONG YOO, baritone

PATRICK BLACKWELL, bass-baritone

TOSHINORI HAMADA, Noh Mai, dancer & choreographer

Artists

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Chamber Ensemble

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Brian Henry, Assistant Stage Director

Rich Abrams, Production Stage Manager

Helen Moss, Japanese Dance Instructor & Choreographer

Mat Cenicola, Props Designer • Kimi Guditis, Graphic Art Designer

Tickets through website: http://www.harmoniaopera.com/box_office.htm

Orchestra Seats: \$35.00 Balcony Seats: \$25.00 Group Discount with 20 available
Box Office Sales on the day of Performance: September 22, 2011 at Merkin Concert Hall

Telephone: 212-501-3330 Web Site: www.kaufman-center.org

PROFILE OF THE HARMONIA OPERA COMPANY

Recipient of the 2008 Foreign Minister's Award, 5 Gold Stars Award for the "Live Broadcasting Performance" at the Kennedy Center on April 10, 2010, FBI Award Plaque for the participation at the Asian Pacific American Celebration on May 20, 2010, on October 1, 2010, New Jersey State Legislature Resolution Award from Senator Kevin O'Toole, and Senator Loretta Weinberg.

Harmonia Opera Company was created by Emiko Inuma, in 1981 for the purpose of promoting an artistic bond between Japan and America. Many Western composers have been inspired to write operas with a Japanese background, and Japanese composers have answered this trend by assimilating Western musical style into their work. Our company presents operas that embody both styles of this mutual musical inspiration. In the greater New York area, we perform operas and musicals portraying Japanese culture in a manner both enjoyable and intelligible to American tastes. United States performances of *YUZURU*, *MADAME CHRYSANTHÈME*, *IRIS*, *MADAMA BUTTERFLY*, *GOMBO GITSUNE*, *OSHO TO KOZO*, *FOX AND OTTER*, *A STORY OF THREE WOMEN*, *AMANJAKU AND PRINCESS URIKO*, *TOJIN OKICHI*, and *FLOWER DRUM SONG* have made it possible for us to realize these goals. Harmonia Opera has presented the world premieres of *DANNY BOY* by Toya and *NEW HOPE* by Robin Berger, in addition to the American premiere of the Japanese opera *AYAME* at Merkin Concert Hall. Inspired by the prominent novelist Yukio Mishima, it had an excellent review in "The New York Times". In 1996, Harmonia Opera celebrated its 15th Anniversary at Hunter College's Sylvia & Danny Kaye Playhouse, with World Premieres of *THE STREETS OF JAPAN*, arranged by Robin Berger, and a Japanese version of Mozart's *THE MAGIC FLUTE* with orchestra, costumes, and scenery. In 1995, Harmonia Opera Company performed in the Venezuela International Festival. In 1998, Harmonia Opera appeared at the Miller Theatre of Columbia University with two American premieres, *SAYONARA* and *WARRIOR'S RED JACKET*. In 1999, Harmonia Opera Company presented the premiere of *PRINCESS KAGUYA* at Sylvia & Danny Kaye Playhouse at Hunter College. Harmonia Opera Company was awarded a grant from the Japan Foundation, Center for Global Partnership, and gave a lecture & demonstration with performance of the opera *AMANJAKU AND PRINCESS URIKO*, at Middlebury College, Vermont on July 28, 2000. On October 11, 2000, Harmonia Opera had tremendous success, presenting the World Premiere of *HAIBO* in English, written and composed by Christian McLeer. On November 26, 2000, Harmonia Opera performed *Highlights from Opera and Musicals* in Guatemala. On November 1, 2001, Harmonia Opera Company celebrated its 20th anniversary with highlights from four operas presented over the past 20 years: *MADAMA BUTTERFLY*, *THE STORY OF THREE WOMEN*, *HAIBO*, and the Japanese Version of Mozart's *THE MAGIC FLUTE*, with special performances by the renowned Metropolitan Opera singers Lucine Amara and Russell Christopher at Merkin Concert Hall. Harmonia Opera continued its tremendous successes with the World Premiere of the Noh Opera *KANTAN* by Robin Berger at Kaye Playhouse on November 5, 2003, and the American Premiere of *NASU NO YOICHI* by Kazuko Hara at Merkin Concert Hall on November 3, 2005. Harmonia celebrated its 25th anniversary on November 6, 2006 at Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center with the American Premiere of the great opera *KUROFUNE* composed by the renowned pioneer composer of Japan, Kosaku Yamada, and received excellent reviews including "Inuma, Demster, Harmonia Triumph at Tully," by Richard Malone and Patricia Stevens, Producer, Editor, and Music Critic at Time Warner Cable. It was broadcast on channels 34 and 67, with numerous rebroadcasts on the WWW.BCAT.TV. On November 9, 2007, Harmonia successfully continued its 26th Anniversary celebration with the American Premiere of *ANJU AND ZUSHIO*, and a popular demand revival of *THE STORY OF THREE WOMEN* at Kaye Playhouse, Hunter College. Harmonia celebrated its 27th anniversary with the American Premiere of *EN SAGA* by Hirokazu Sugano, and popular demand revival of *AMANJAKU AND PRINCESS URIKO* by Hikaru Hayashi, on November 6, 2008 at Merkin Concert Hall. Harmonia will celebrate its 28th anniversary on November 4, 2009, at Merkin Concert Hall with the American Premiere of *MUMYO AND AIZEN* by renowned Japanese novelist Junichiro Tanizaki, and World Premiere of *Japanese Folksongs and Dance Medley*, arranged for Chamber Orchestra by Tsubasa Matsuda. Most recently Harmonia Opera had a tremendous success at the Kennedy Center on April 10, 2010, for the National Cherry Blossom Festival under the patronage of the Japanese Embassy in Washington, D.C. which was broadcast live, and listed on the www.kennedy-center.org/millennium. Further details on website www.harmoniaopera.com.

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