

Takako Hiraoka (soprano)

Performed as the First maid in Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, Marija in Prokofiev's *War and Peace*, Brigitta in Tchaikovsky's *Iolanta* and Galatea in Zuppe's *The Beautiful Galatea*.

She studied at the Toho Gakuen School of Music Diploma Course and at the St Petersburg Conservatory in Russia. Later studied at the Department of Philosophy at Keio University. From 2001-2010, she was invited to perform in the Japan Foundation-funded 'Japanese Culture Week'. Performed recitals of Japanese lyrics and songs in Riga (Latvia), Copenhagen (Denmark), Helsinki (Finland), Vilnius (Lithuania), Tbilisi (Georgia), Vienna (Austria), Kiev (Ukraine) and Fiftach (Germany) to great acclaim. Performed at the National Symphony Orchestra of Japan.

In May 2009, she performed the role of Marija in the "Moscow Amadeus Musical Theatre" production of "War and Peace" in Tokyo and Maebashi to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Lev Tolstoy's death; in December 2010, she performed the role of Brigitta in Tchaikovsky's "Princess Iolanta".

In 2018, she appeared as Ekaterina II's lady-in-waiting in the opera 'Kodayu', co-organised by the Embassy of Japan in the Russian Federation and the 'Moscow Amadeus Music Theatre'; in September 2022, she accompanied master Sanyutei Rakumaro in the 'Rakugo and Edo Songs' project for the 140th anniversary of the Japan-Serbia friendship and performed in five cities in Serbia.

She has also established a unit called KATARIBE, which produces collaborative works of Japanese folktales, world fairy tales, classical music and films.

Recently, she has not only performed, but has also given lectures at universities and other institutions, trying to take a philosophical and scientific approach to the 'relationship between music and human beings', such as the feelings of joy and sorrow expressed through music, and why people are moved by music.