

# Press Release

February , 2025

The Japan Opera Foundation <https://www.jof.or.jp>

## An invitation to an original Japanese opera

Japan Opera Association

General Artistic Director Aiko KORI

Libretto by Rei NAKANISHI / Music by Minoru MIKI

# 「Shizuka & Yoshitsune」

Opera in 3 Acts in Original Language (Supertitle : JP / EN) New Production



From the 2019 60th Anniversary Commemorative Performance

Saturday, March 8 & Sunday, March 9, 2025, Start 14:00

Tokyo Bunka Kaikan

【Open 13:00】 \* I will provide a commentary on the work inside the venue starting at 13:15.

※Running time: Approximately 3 hours (including intermissions).

Watch the original Japanese opera "Shizuka and Yoshitsune" and write an article in English or a foreign language for foreign media outlet. This is the first time that a Japan Opera Association production will be performed with English subtitles. We want more foreigners to see Japanese opera. With this wish in mind, the Japan Opera Association invites journalists to the performance.

My name is Aiko Koori, general director of the Japan Opera Association. The Japan Opera Association was established in 1958 and has been working for many years to create and promote opera rooted in traditional Japanese culture.

Western music has been in Japan for over 150 years. Starting with the genius Yamada Kosaku, who composed the first opera in Japan, many operas have been composed and performed by Japanese composers up to the present day. However, these works have rarely been performed outside of Japan, and the charm and greatness of Japanese opera has not been known internationally until now.

There are many rare operas that foreigners have never heard of before, such as operas based on Japanese history and folk tales, operas based on Noh and Kabuki stories, operas that deal with modern issues, and operas based on Japanese manga.

What we regret now is that we did not create an environment where foreigners could watch Japanese operas. We have been performing them without English subtitles.

The work being performed this time, "Shizuka and Yoshitsune," is a story set in the 10th century, when the ancient aristocratic government came to an end and the age of the samurai began. It is a popular opera that is representative of Japanese opera. Also, since Hiroyuki Sanada's "SHOGUN" became a global topic, I think the beginning of the age of the Japanese samurai will also attract attention.

Yoshitsune displayed his genius military strategy in the battle and destroyed his longtime enemy in an instant. However, he was caught between the scheming retired emperor and his ruthless brother, the shogun, and met a tragic end on the frontier of Tohoku. Meanwhile, Shizuka, the most beautiful dancer of her time, who adores Yoshitsune and tries to maintain her pure love, is also at the mercy of fate, her baby born to her and Yoshitsune is killed, and she ends her life in despair.

The love between the two, which could never be fulfilled in this world, is finally united in heaven, and everyone will be moved to tears at the end.

We will be performing this opera. We really want as many foreigners as possible to know the greatness of Japanese opera. This press release and invitation are filled with this feeling.

### **Cast**

Conductor／Yuko TANAKA      Stage Director／Miyuki IKUTA

	3/8	3/9
Shizuka	Ryoko SUNAKAWA	Kazuko SAGARA
Yoshitsune	Kazuaki SAWASAKI	Hiroaki KAIDO
Yoritomo	Shingo SUDO	Koya MURAMATSU
Benkei	Hiroyuki EHARA	Shingo SUGIO
Isonozenji	Yayoi TORIKI	Kaori SHIROMORI
Masako	Toko KAWAGOE	Noriko IEDA
Ohime	Haruka SHIBANO	Misako BEPPU
Kajiwara Kagetoki	Hiroshi MOCHIKI	Kazuhiro TSUNODA
Shigemori Wada	Hiroshi KAWAKUBO	Kosuke KATSUMATA
Oeno Hiromoto	Katsuji MIURA	Yasushi NAKAMURA
Sato Tadanobu	Daisuke WAGETA	Toshiki TAKEUCHI
Iseno Daburo	Kentaro RYUSHI	Sho HAMADA
Kataoka Tsuneharu	Taichi YAMADA	Shinichiro RYU
Adachi Kitotsune	Toru OUKI	Hiroshi HIRAO
Horino Touji	Shinya BEPPU	Minoru EBARA
Wife of Touji	Hiroko KINOSHITA	Ikue YOSHIDA

20 String Koto  
Tsuzumi  
Chorus  
Orchestra

Akemi YAMADA  
Akikuni TAKAHASHI  
Nihon Opera Kyokai Chorus Group  
Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra

***Staff***

Chorus Master	Koji MOROYU
Scenery Designer	Toshiaki SUZUKI
Costume Designer	Misao SAKAIDA
Lighting Designer	Masatoshi YAGUCHI
Choreographer	Yo IZUMO
Stage Manager	Seiichi YAGI
Assistant Conductor	Keiko HIRANO、Youma KABURAGI
Assistant Stage Director	Akiko INAYAMA

***Ticket***

S : ¥16,000   A : ¥13,000   B : ¥10,000   C : ¥7,000   D : ¥5,000   E : ¥3,000

●Ticket Information

**JOF Ticket Center** 03-6721-0874 (Weekday 10:00~18:00) <https://www.jof.or.jp>

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