



Utako Toyama (from Osaka, Japan)

Utako Toyama is a Japanese composer, vocalist, music educator and international cultural project leader based in London. She is the founder and artistic director of SkyBridge, a global music project connecting artists, students and communities across cultural and linguistic borders, and the co-founder of Songs for World Peace, a global initiative involving artists from over 90 countries.

Utako received a scholarship to Berklee College of Music, where she graduated cum laude in Contemporary Writing and Production and received the Martin Luther King Artistry Award. While at Berklee, she founded SkyBridge with the slogan, "We look different, we ALL smile the same," bringing together musicians from around the world through original music, cultural exchange and collaborative performance. She has collaborated with musicians from 50 countries and regions, including Grammy Award winners Victor Wooten and Mark Walker.

After graduation, Utako received exceptional talent visas in both the United States and the United Kingdom. She has performed internationally, including in the US, Japan, the UK, Kenya, Uganda, Croatia and Lithuania, at venues such as Japan Festival Boston, Boston GreenFest, Boston GreenFest, Berklee Performance Center, Harvard University and MIT.

In 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, she co-founded Songs for World Peace, inviting musicians worldwide to release original songs for peace in their native languages. The project was later featured at the Global Voices Film Festival, organized by the UN Women SF Chapter, where Utako was interviewed and the music video for SkyBridge's "We Declare Peace" was screened. In 2022, Utako and SkyBridge were selected as the inaugural international recipient of the Hiroshima Award (Music Division) at the Hiroshima International Peace Culture Festival.

In 2023, through a City of Hiroshima commissioned project with Songs for World Peace, Berklee College of Music and Mayors for Peace, she helped create the English version of the Hiroshima Peace Song, sung annually at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony. The same year, she performed as SkyBridge with Japanese and Lithuanian students at Japan Days in Kaunas WA, Lithuania, supported by EU-Japan Fest.

In 2025, Utako presented a hybrid Global Choir for World Peace at Expo 2025 Osaka, connecting musicians from around 30 countries online and in person. She is now developing OGC, the Online Global Co-performance Programme, a workshop-based model where students and communities create and perform together and stay connected online beyond a one-time event.

Across SkyBridge, Songs for World Peace and OGC, Utako's work shares one aim: connecting artists, students and communities across borders through music, co-creation and long-term international friendship.

Selected International Projects and Performances



Top left: Performing as SkyBridge at Japan Days in Kaunas WA, Lithuania, supported by EU-Japan Fest (2023)



Top right: Conducting the Global Choir for World Peace at Expo 2025 Osaka (Songs for World Peace, 2025)



Middle left: Leading a SkyBridge intercultural music workshop (Japan, 2025)



Middle right: From the music video for the English version of the Hiroshima Peace Song (2023)



Bottom left: Performing as SkyBridge with Victor Wooten in Kenya (2017)



Bottom right: With Kazumi Matsui, Mayor of Hiroshima and President of Mayors for Peace, at Hiroshima City Hall (2023)