



Utako Toyama (from Osaka, Japan)

Utako Toyama is a multi-award-winning composer and the founder of SkyBridge and the Co-Founder of Songs for World Peace.

She received a scholarship to Berklee College of Music and graduated cum laude with the Contemporary Music Composition and Production major. By experiencing “music making her friends while she made music with musicians from many countries”, she realized about universality and diversity of humanity and music. She then started a global project band, SkyBridge with the slogan of “We look different, we ALL smile the same”. She received the Martin Luther King Artistry Award at Berklee.

After graduation, she received an exceptional talent visa in the US. She became the first and only Japanese songwriter to receive multiple finalist awards at John Lesson Songwriting Contest and contests such as SongStar and RAWA songs for social change. She has been performing at well-respected events such as the Women Musicians Network concert at Berklee Performance Center as the special Alumna, at the Boston consul general’s house, Boston Japan Festival, Harvard University, and MIT and conferences hosted by Massachusetts Peace Action and many others.

She received the UK exceptional talent visa and moved to London, the UK in 2019. During the 2020 Corona disaster, she co-founded Songs for World Peace(SWP), a global initiative for musicians around the globe to write and release songs for world peace in their native languages. She collaborated with the Global Voices Film Festival, a film festival organized by the UN Women SF Chapter and her composition "We Declare Peace" was played at the festival. In 2022, she received the Hiroshima Award in the Overseas Music category at the Hiroshima International Peace Culture Festival, sponsored by the Japanese Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Hiroshima Prefecture, in recognition of her peace activities.

She devotes her gifts of leadership and composing to promoting diversity, equality and world peace through music and by collaborating with similar-minded organizations.

She has worked in the US, Japan, Kenya, Uganda and Croatia and performed with fantastic musicians from over 47 countries, including Grammy-awarded musicians, such as Mark Walker and Victor Wooten as SkyBridge. She has led musicians from over 100 countries in total with SWP. She is currently exploring the possibilities of an online global choir, working on an album for SkyBridge tour, organizing SWP, and creating a singer-songwriter album as Utako Toyama, featuring singers from around the world.



Performing as a special guest Alumna at Berklee Performance Center (Picture on the left) Recording session with Mark Walker (Picture on the right)



Boston Japan Festival Boston Greenfes



Performing with Victor Wooten in Kenya as SkyBridge