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[Talk](#)

[Read](#)

[Edit](#)

[View history](#)



Seiko Lee

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Seiko Lee (born Tokyo, Japan) is a Japanese [soprano](#) who began her musical studies at age four in Tokyo. As a member of the NHK Children's Choir for ten years she traveled on several good-will tours including a concert tour of Eastern Europe. After marrying a [South Korean](#) she became interested in [Korean music](#) and has performed extensively in Korea. Her second CD, *Liberation*, is a collection of well-known Korean [art songs](#). The *Liberation* CD was an important factor in her being invited to sing in [North Korea](#).

As a professional she has performed in both the opera house and concert stage in Europe,^[1] South America,^[2] Asia^[3] and the United States. She has recorded as soloist for Sony, RCA Victor and [Manhattan Center Records](#).

Her concert tours have taken her to several of the world's preeminent venues including New York's [Lincoln Center](#), [Manhattan Center](#) and [Madison Square Garden](#), Japan's Makuhari Messe and Shin Koguki-kan Stadium and Seoul's Olympic Stadium in 1992 where she performed for 120,000 people as part of the first World Cultural and Sports Festival. She has performed for many world dignitaries including the [Japanese Emperor](#) and former heads of state including Sir [Edward Heath](#) of Britain, Kenneth Kuanda of Zambia, Rodrigo Escobar Navia of Columbia and [Stanislav Shushkevich](#) of Belarus.

She is a graduate of the Tokyo Metropolitan Art High School (music major) and the [Tokyo National University of Fine Arts](#) (*Tokyo Geidai*). After graduating she came to the United States and has appeared in international opera productions including *Carmen*, *Macbeth*, *La traviata*, *Suor Angelica*, *Così fan tutte*, and *Un Destino Immortale*. In addition, she has performed with the Japan Opera Studio in Tokyo. She made her US operatic debut in New York City with the La Scaletta Opera and she has also appeared with the [Connecticut Opera](#) and New York's Henry Street Opera. In 1998, she presented a joint recital in [Asunción, Paraguay](#) with national icon, [Gloria del Paraguay](#).

Since 1996, she has been a frequent soloist with the New York City Symphony and the NYC Symphony Chamber Ensemble. In 1996, she toured with the NYC Symphony Chamber Ensemble in concerts in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Connecticut and Washington, D.C. In 1998 and 1999, she appeared as a soloist at the Lincoln Center with New York's historic Goldman Memorial Band. In 2002, she appeared with the New York City Symphony Chamber Ensemble in the Temple Recital Series in [Salt Lake City, Utah](#). In 2005 she was the featured soloist at the inaugural ceremony of the [Universal Peace Federation](#) at Lincoln Center's [Alice Tully Hall](#).

Lee appeared as a featured soloist in *"Soprano's World Concert for World Peace" Paraguay 2007* in [Asunción, Paraguay](#).

- [Main page](#)
- [Contents](#)
- [Featured content](#)
- [Current events](#)
- [Random article](#)
- [Donate to Wikipedia](#)
- [Wikipedia store](#)

Interaction

- [Help](#)
- [About Wikipedia](#)
- [Community portal](#)
- [Recent changes](#)
- [Contact page](#)

Tools

- [What links here](#)
- [Related changes](#)
- [Upload file](#)
- [Special pages](#)
- [Permanent link](#)
- [Page information](#)
- [Wikidata item](#)
- [Cite this page](#)

Print/export

- [Create a book](#)
- [Download as PDF](#)
- [Printable version](#)

Languages



[Русский](#)

[Edit links](#)

Contents [\[hide\]](#)

- [1 Peace Advocacy](#)
- [2 Healing Through Song](#)
- [3 Recordings and video](#)
- [4 References](#)
- [5 External links](#)

Peace Advocacy [\[edit \]](#)

Beyond her career as a concert artist, Lee has exhibited a deep concern for issues of [world peace](#) and [human rights](#).

She released her first CD *Songs of Peace* and in 2005 she released her second CD, "Liberation-Songs of My Spiritual Country" dedicated to the peace initiative of healing the enmity between Japan and South Korea. She has traveled extensively to Japan and Korea to promote the healing and reconciliation of these two countries through music. She has made frequent appearances at the [United Nations](#) in peace concerts for reconciliation and healing as well. Her concerts in North Korea are also a result of her peace advocacy through music. She has performed in concert in North Korea in 2006, 2007 and 2008. She was recipient of the Gold Medal award for her performance in 2008 at the International Art Festival in Pyongyang.

In 2005 and 2006 she appeared with the renowned, Israeli vocalist [David D'Or](#) in [Jerusalem](#) as part of the Middle East Peace Initiative Concerts for Interreligious Unity.

In April 2006 she returned to [Tel Aviv](#) where she appeared with the R'ananna Symphony Orchestra as a featured vocalist in the premiere recording of the 40-minute ten-movement "peace [cantata](#)", "Halelu--Songs of David", co-composed by David D'Or and [David Eaton](#). The composition for solo voices, [chorus](#), and [orchestra](#), was a collaborative effort of D'Or and Eaton. Halelu is sung in English, Hebrew, Arabic and Latin, with greetings of peace of [Judaism](#), [Christianity](#) and [Islam](#) figuring prominently in the lyrical content of several movements.^[4]

On May 19, 2007, she performed with D'Or in the world premier performance of "Halelu--Songs of David", at the [Sava Center](#) in [Belgrade, Serbia](#). The concert was televised to six other [Eastern European](#) countries. Eaton conducted the combined [Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra](#) and the 120-voice choir of the Academic Cultural Artistic Society.

She appeared with Maestro Eaton and David D'Or in a second performance of *Halelu* in [Sofia, Bulgaria](#) on October 8, 2007, with the Sofia Philharmonic and Chorus. She was a feature soloist at the 9/11 Peace Gala commemorative concert in New York's Central Park. Her European recital tour in 2011 took her to Paris, Geneva, Vienna and Linz.

Seiko Lee is the president of the Seiko Lee Project, a non-profit organization, and has contributed to numerous social and charitable activities, including reconciliation projects for Rwanda, Zambia, West Africa and Guinea Bissau.

In 2011 and 2012 she presented two European concert tours. In November 2012 she was the featured performer at the Universal Peace Federation's Leadership and Good Governance Award Ceremony honoring Nassir

Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, former President of the 66th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

In October 2017, Lee performed at a memorial charity in Germany for the 500th anniversary of [Martin Luther](#)'s proclamation of the [Ninety-five Theses](#) in [Düsseldorf](#).^[5]

Healing Through Song [[edit](#)]

Beginning in 2008, Lee performed a series of concerts in Asia promoting [breast cancer awareness](#) for the Japan Association of Breast Cancer and Thyroid Sonology (JABTS). These [Pink Ribbon](#) concerts took place on Yokohama City and Yamato City. Her concerts were initiated in Nepal^[6] and have taken place primarily in Japan including performances at the Dokkyo Medical University Hospital and Yamato Seiwa Hospital. She appeared in recital at the historic Bunka Kaikan Concert Hall in Tokyo in 2009. In October 2011 she presented Pink Ribbon concerts at [Dokkyo University](#) Medical Hospital accompanied by Michael Bukhman,^[7] and in November she presented an encore concert in her hometown of Shibuya at the Masao Koga/Keyaki Hall Music Memorial Hall. In February 2012 she made her fifth appearance at New York's [Merkin Hall](#) with the Ureuk Symphony Orchestra, with a recital in April the same year when she returned to Yamaha Hall in [Ginza](#), with the renowned Aperto String Quartet and pianist Michael Bukhman.

Since the Japan earthquake and tsunami of 2011, Lee has presented numerous benefit concerts, in Japanese cities of Tokyo, [Tochigi](#) and [Shiga](#), as well as back in New York, Ohio and Los Angeles, supporting the relief efforts at those locations. Her concert in Columbus, Ohio was featured on both the NBC and CBS news affiliates there. Her Los Angeles benefit concert in July 2011 in conjunction with actor [Shin Koyamada](#) ("[The Last Samurai](#)")'s Koyamada Foundation was recorded and broadcast on four occasions by UTV in Hollywood.

Recordings and video [[edit](#)]

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 - . *The Barrytown Gazette*: "Redhook Housewife's music brings joy, healing to the world." by Henry Christopher, April 2008

External links [[edit](#)]

- . [Official Website of Seiko Lee](#)[↗]
- . [Facebook page](#)[↗]
- . [Seiko Lee Project](#)[↗], a N.P.O. 501 (c) (3) tax exempt Organization

Categories: [Japanese classical musicians](#) | [Japanese operatic sopranos](#) | [Living people](#) | [Singers from Tokyo](#) | [Japanese female singers](#) | [20th-century Japanese singers](#) | [21st-century Japanese singers](#) | [20th-century women singers](#) | [20th-century opera singers](#) | [21st-century opera singers](#) | [21st-century women singers](#)

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