

Nagisa Tanaka Biography

Tokyo-born classical harpist Nagisa Tanaka is a prize-winning soloist and orchestral musician recognized for her rare sensitivity and grace, as well as her unique bridge between Japanese precision and European musical traditions. She first encountered music at the age of 4, when she began playing the piano. However, it was the profound sound of the classical harp that truly captured her heart after she heard a recording by Judy Loman.

She studied at Kunitachi College of Music and graduated at the top of her class in 2020. Later, she earned her Master's degree in Classical Harp Performance with highest honors at the Conservatorium Maastricht. In 2025, she completed her advanced studies at the Music and Arts University (MUK) of the City of Vienna, graduating with a perfect score.

Nagisa's artistry is the result of years of dedicated study under some of the most respected harpists. Her potential was refined in Japan under the guidance of Risako Hayakawa (Principal Harpist of the NHK Symphony Orchestra), Mitsuyo Nishimura, and Izumi Sato. She later moved to Europe to further perfect her orchestral and solo repertoire under Anneleen Lenaerts, the renowned Principal Harpist of the Vienna Philharmonic.

As a classical harpist, she has earned over 20 international awards, reflecting the versatility of her talent across the Asian and European classical music scenes. She claimed first prize at the 20th Osaka International Music Competition and second prize at the Japan International Harp Competition in 2019. In 2022, she made history as the first Japanese harpist to win the 11th International Harp Competition *Suoni d'Arpa* in Italy.

This triumph led to the release of her debut solo harp album, [Opera and Dance in Harp Music](#) (2023). Further prizes followed, including third prize at the International Harp Competition Felix Godefroid in Belgium in 2022 and second prize at the 14th Concours Français de la Harpe in France in 2025.

Since her solo harp recital debut at Tokyo's Kioi Hall in 2022, Nagisa has performed globally as a soloist and chamber musician with some of the world's most renowned ensembles. These include the NHK Symphony Orchestra, the Japan National Orchestra, and the Kioi Hall Chamber Orchestra, as well as the Wiener Staatsoper and the Ensemble of the Royal Opera House Covent Garden.

Her international reach grew further with solo recitals in Italy and Spain and a masterclass at Harpissima. In 2024, her reputation at the highest level was confirmed when she was invited by the principal harpist to join the Vienna Philharmonic's Summer Orchestra Academy.

Rooted in the classical traditions of both Asia and Europe, Nagisa brings a rare sensitivity and grace to every note she plays, sharing the enchanting resonance of the harp that first captured her heart as a child.

Short Version:

Nagisa Tanaka is a professional classical harpist based in Vienna. She bridges two worlds. Her music blends the Japanese precision of her roots with the deep traditions of Europe. Her sound is honest. Direct. It reflects a vivid range of colors, from sharp clarity to moments of quiet melancholy, that evolve over time. A highest honors graduate of 2026 with over 20 international awards, she has already performed with renowned ensembles like the NHK Symphony Orchestra and was invited to the Vienna Philharmonic's Summer Academy.

She is the first Japanese winner of Italy's Suoni d'Arpa. Now, she is ready for what is next. Nagisa is currently open for new concert dates and collaborations where her music can add something special to the stage. Explore her journey. Discover the music.