



SHINICHI SAKUMA

After graduating from Tokyo University of the Arts he became the 17th research opera student of Tokyo Nikikai, went to Europe in 1975 and studied at the Italian National Conservatory Verdi, where he studied with A. Siriotti, E. Campogariani and A. Beltrami. He received many prizes in the following competitions: 5th Concorso Vocale Italiano Gold Award (Sun), Verdi Memorial Bergamo International Vocal Competition 2nd (No 1st), B. Giri International Vocal Competition 2nd, 27th Toulouse International Vocal Competition 3rd In addition to the Opera Special Prize (France). During his ten years in Europe, he participated in the Macerata Summer Outdoor Opera Festival, a recital sponsored by the Embassy of Japan in Italy, and was soloist of the National Radio Symphony Orchestra of Turin. He performed in numerous operas such as "Tosca," "Verdi Festival," "La forza del destino," and "Don Carlo." After returning to Japan in 1987, he founded the Kumamoto City Opera Association, produced the Japan-Italy-Hungary trilateral opera performance "Aida" in 1999, and was praised by the Italian newspaper "Opera". In 2013, he designed and produced a special opera performance "Tsubakihime" to commemorate the 200th anniversary of Verdi's birth under the direction of Tomomi Nishimoto, which was very well received.

To date, he has planned, produced and continued to perform Italian works every year, also focusing on teaching the younger generation.

It has received the 31st Kumamoto Prefectural Cultural Association Award, the 28th Kumamoto Prefectural Cultural Award Main Prize, and the Kumamoto Prefectural Arts and Culture Festival 50th Anniversary Encouragement Award. The Kumamoto City Opera Association celebrated its 30th anniversary and received the 24th Shitori Music Award for his contribution to the promotion of classical music that is closely linked to the community.

He is currently a member of the Tokyo Nikikai, vice president of the Kumamoto Cultural Association, representative of the Kumamoto City Opera Association, member of the Executive Committee/Jury of the Kumamoto Prefectural Newcomer Concert, and member of the Kumamoto Student Music Competition.