

YOKO WENDE

vocalist



Praised as "Favorite of the Year" by Les Dernières Nouvelles d'Alsace for her performance at Au Grès du Jazz 2018 in France, Yoko Wende was hailed by the festival director as "the Japanese artist who turned a garden of France into a Zen garden." Her voice, deeply rooted in her performing arts background, conveys powerful stories and emotions.

On scholarship, Yoko trained at The Lee Strasberg Theatre Institute in New York and appeared on renowned stages including Carnegie Hall and La MaMa Theatre. After relocating to Hong Kong in 2009, she quickly rose to fame as a jazz singer, appearing at festivals, major concert halls, and top jazz clubs. Time Out magazine praised her as a "first-rate jazz singer."

In 2019, she returned to Tokyo to reconnect with her cultural roots and released her debut album *The Path of the Wind*, a tribute to Japanese composers Ryuichi Sakamoto and Joe Hisaishi arranged for vocals and classical guitar. In 2023, she captivated 1,100 listeners at a national treasure temple during an annual concert held since 1989.

Currently based in Amsterdam, Yoko was invited to perform at the International Criminal Court in The Hague in front of ambassadors and judges at the 2025 Judicial Year Opening, as well as on *Eva*, the Netherlands' most-watched talk show.

She is now developing new music inspired by Japanese folk songs and Japanese compositions, interpreted through contemporary collaboration with a Dutch classical guitarist.

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