

# Hibari Misora Tribute Concert

## Case Study



## Casting a light on Japan's most loved singer

Japanese culture is rich and diverse, with traditions dating back thousands of years. Fond of these age-old traditions, Japan also embraces modernity in terms of innovation and creativity.

It was a confluence of both old and new that brought Hibari Misora's arduous journey to life in a ballet stage performance. Misora is a beloved singer whose songs captivated the hearts of the island nation. A true music legend, Japanese radio stations still play her most famous song "Kawa no nagare no yō ni" every year on her birthday, as a way of marking her importance to Japanese music culture.

With a vision to recreate and pay tribute to Hibari, choreographer Lynn Taylor-Corbett designed a ballet performance which traced the life story of Misora. Staged at

Mielparque Tokyo on June 13-14, 2015 by NBA Ballet Company, adoring fans flocked to catch this spectacular performance.

Recreating the colorful life of Misora was a big challenge. Taylor-Corbett had to recreate the scenes from Hibari's past; starting with her birth, leading up to the peak in her career and lastly, her death. This required Taylor-Corbett to go back to the archives and work closely with scenic designer Motohiko Ando and projection designer Adam Larsen to present a fitting tribute to Misora.

Previously, only large props and decorations would be used to create dramatic effects. However, this has its limitations as it restricted the dancers' movements, limiting the how creative the choreography could be.

**Customer:**  
NBA Ballet Company

**Location:**  
Tokyo, Japan

**Industry/Market:**  
Live event

**Partners:**  
Ginza Sakuraya

**Requirements:**

- Vivid color and high brightness
- High-performance coupled with reliability

**Summary:**  
NBA Ballet Company made use of Christie's Roadster HD20K-J projector, along with Ginza Sakuraya's expertise, to pay tribute to the late Hibari Misora.

**Products:**  
Christie Roadster HD20K-J

**Results:**  
The Christie Roadster HD20K-J allowed NBA Ballet Company to realize its creative vision in paying tribute to Hibari Misora. The overall execution of the event, along with the vivid and realistic visuals, helped NBA Ballet Company to combine the aesthetics of ballet and music.

By eliminating stage props, Taylor-Corbett knew she needed to use projection mapping to create the scenes and populate the stage. The Christie® Roadster HD20K-J was the answer. Taylor-Corbett could now focus on her expertise – art direction – and fully realize her creative and artistic vision.

“Previously, I would have to hire stage hands to move props on and off the stage which hinders the fluidity of the performance,” remarks Taylor-Corbett. “Now, the audience can be treated to an old recording of the late Hibari on the screen while dancers flitted in and out of projected “doors.” There was no down-time for the audience at all, which allows them to be fully engaged with the telling of Hibari’s life.”

Visuals were projected on the entire stage which measured 50 feet by 25 feet to provide the audience with an immersive experience through the telling of the various stages of Misora’s life. To illustrate the grief Misora felt during the years that led to the peak in her career, the stage was washed in blue light.





▲ Christie Roadster HD20K-J projector

In another scene, the Roadster HD20K-J projected images of the sea, fire and the rising sun to illustrate the highs of Misora's life. The silhouettes of each and every dancer were mapped to the screen as the dynamism of Misora's life was celebrated once again. The richness and brightness of color, the clarity of the projections and the compelling visual displays added to the experience and emotional journey of the audience.

The brightness of the Roadster HD20K-J was also one of the key considerations for NBA Ballet Company. The projector, which has a brightness of 20,000 lumens, is fitted with a range of high quality lenses, all with Intelligent Lenses System™ capabilities, which made the telling of Misora's life all the more convincing.

Adam Larsen, an up-and-coming

documentary producer and video designer, enthused, "Productions that I do now, I always keep in mind how I can leverage the Roadster 20K-J for maximum impact. The versatility and reliability of the Christie projectors proved to be a star in its own right, not only fulfilling the technical requirements but also solving the operational issues."

"Whether it is a ballet tribute or a production on a larger scale, I can always trust Christie projectors to live up to their reputation," Larsen continues. "The projectors aid me to evoke the kinds of emotions I want my audience to feel and this is why I always trust and support the use of Christie products."

Recreating the life story of a multi-faceted star like Hibari Misora proved to be an artistic challenge, but one that was quickly

surmounted thanks to the expertise of NBA Ballet Company and the use of the Christie HD20K-J projector.

Recounting the success of NBA Ballet Company's latest performance, Mamoru Hanzawa, general manager, Christie Japan, said, "Christie is very proud to be involved in such a momentous occasion in the Japanese performing arts scene. We endeavor to arm art groups with the necessary tools to scale greater creative heights."

Like a true legend, Hibari Misora will always be a shining star in the land of the rising sun.

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