

All the vocalists and the musicians truly understood the nature of the translation (Many more syllables in Japanese) the music is sped up and with it the intensity and ferocity of many of it's hardest songs. The guitarist in Judas's Death must have set their guitar on fire with this one! I've also never heard a scarier and more frantic rendition of that song.

The song Simon Zealotes is also in powerful form here, once again sped up. The addition of the synth just makes it even more funky. And that bassline is just the icing on the cake. We have the synth's return for the lead in The Temple which again is amazingly funky.



So I put in my order and waited. And the wait did not disappoint. Now, the entire record is in Japanese (which I don't speak, but my girlfriend does) but I know my JCS by heart that I can follow along. We have Minoru Terada as a stellar Judas, Hideko Kuno as Mary Magdalene and the original Iron Chef, Takeshi Kaga as Jesus.

I haven't even touched on the Overture which my girlfriend describes as "Spooky Spongebob Music", it certainly fits that description and is fittingly spooky. Kaga would go on to portray Jesus for four seasons, and remain as a fixture in the theatre scene. There have also been alternate productions of the show in the traditional Kabuki form of Japanese theatre. This recording is easily among my favorites.



A while ago I came across this recording while hunting for versions of the rock opera I didn't have on vinyl. (There are tons of different takes on the album) I honestly love collecting Japanese records, as they're always made of high quality vinyl and really sing when you have good equipment.

Photos (in order)

1. Kuno and Kaga as Mary and Jesus.
2. Terada as Judas.
3. The set during Simon Zealotes.
4. King Herod's Song. Masachika Ichimura as Herod.



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I'm not religious, but I love musicals. Jesus Christ Superstar has always been pretty high on my list of favorites. Amazing rock vocals, amazing guitar work and an amazing concept album to boot it really does fit the bill of a masterpiece of prog rock.

## Japanese Jesus

a brief review of  
the Tokyo Cast  
Recording  
of

Jesus  
Christ  
Superstar