



Phillipa Soo

Phillipa is a mixed heritage Chinese American growing up in the suburbs of Chicago. Her mother was a theater administrator and would often take Phillipa to see musicals which inspired her to take dancing, singing, and acting lessons. Phillipa was later accepted into the Juilliard School's acting program in 2012 to pursue her dream of performing. She was cast in her first off-Broadway play in 2013 that would later attract the attention of Lin-Manuel Miranda who asked her to take part in a 2014 reading of *Hamilton*. She won the role and gained fame for originating the Broadway role of Eliza in *Hamilton* (2015). This earned Phillipa a Best Actress in a Musical Tony nomination and the Grammy awarded to the cast for best Broadway Musical Album. An interesting fact is she learned to beatbox during *Hamilton*. Phillipa faced financial hardship in pursuing her dream and has spoken about the importance of financial aid and scholarships for performing arts students. She established "The Eliza Project" in 2015 for children in orphanages to use the arts as a means of expression. Additionally, she is involved in various social justice initiatives with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund and the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund. Phillipa has dedicated her work to providing a voice for Asian Americans and others with marginalized backgrounds.

Note: Some songs listed might have explicit content; listener discretion advised.