

SAKURA

SAKURA is one of Japan's most beautiful and poetic folk songs. It is considered a treasured part of Japanese culture and sung often by people of all ages. Literally translated, the word "sakura" means cherry blossom. The lyrics of the song describe the blooming of the cherry blossoms in spring. The lovely and haunting melody is based on a traditional pentatonic (five note) minor scale commonly used in many Japanese songs.

The choral arrangement begins with the original lyrics, accompanied by a Japanese pronunciation guide, appearing in a simple, mostly unison setting. An English translation featuring a two-part contrapuntal vocal texture follows. A piano solo with vocal background serves as an interlude. Finally, the original Japanese lyrics are repeated, but this time using the two-part setting heard earlier in the English verse.

There is no real musical climax in SAKURA. The intent of the song and the arrangement is to create and sustain a gentle, poetic, and somewhat mysterious mood or atmosphere. An ideal performance would preserve this intent.

Michael Scott

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SAKURA

SATB, accompanied

Japanese Folk Song
Arrangement and English Translation by
MICHAEL SCOTT

Performance time: 3:28

Gently ♩ = ca. 76-80

ACCOMP.

mp
legato

rall.
(hold)

S
A

mp unison

Sa - ku - ra, sa - ku - ra, ya - yo - i - no
(sah - koo - rah) sah - koo - rah yah - yo - ee - no

T
B

mp unis.

a tempo

so - ra - wa, mi - wa - ta - su ka - gi - ri
so - rah - wah mee - wah - tah - soo *kah - gee - ree

ka - su - mi - ka ku - mo - ka. Ni - o - i - zo,
kah - soo - mee - kah koo - mo - kah nee - o - ee - zo

i - zu - ru. I - za - ya, i - za - ya,
ee - zoo roo ee - zah - yah ee - zah - yah

*"gee" as in geese

rall.

mi - ni - yu - ka - un. _____
 mee - nee - yoo - kah - oon)

rall.

rall.

mp *a tempo*

21 Sa - ku - ra, sa - ku ra

mp *a tempo*

21 *a tempo*

cher - ry ^{unis.} blos - som born of _ spring. Ev - 'ry - where you

cher - ry blos - som. Ev - 'ry -

unis.

cher - ry blos - som. Ev - 'ry -

look a - round, clouds of pet - als fill the _ sky.

where you look a-round, clouds of pet -

Per - fume mist floats in the _ air.

als. Per - fume mist floats in the air.

31 Let us go, let us go, let us go _ and unis.

unis.

31

rall. *a tempo* *p*

see. _____ Oo, _____

rall. *a tempo*

rall. *Piano solo* *mp* *a tempo*

rit. (hold)

Oo, _____ Oo, _____

p

[42]

Oo, _____

[42]

51

mp a tempo

Sa - ku - ra, sa - ku - ra,
 (Sah - koo - rah sa - koo - rah,

mp a tempo

51

a tempo

ya - yo - i - no so - ra - wa, mi - wa - ta - su
 yah - yo - ee - no so - rah - wah mee - wah - tah - soo

unis.

ya - yo - i - no, mi - wa -
 yah - yo - ee - no mee - wah -

ka - gi - ri ka - su - mi - ka ku - mo - ka.
 *kah - gee - ree kah - soo - mee - kah koo - mo - kah

ta - su ka - gi - ri ka - su - mi
 tah-soo *kah-gee-ree kah - soo - mee

*"gee" as in geese

59

Ni - o - i - zo, i - zu - ru.
 nee - o - ee - zo ee - zoo - roo

ka. Ni - o - i - zo, i - zu - ru.
 kah nee - o - ee - zo, ee - zoo - roo

59

I - za - ya, i - za - ya, mi - ni - yu - ka -
 ee - zah - yah ee - zah - yah mee - nee - yoo - kah -
 unis. unis.

un. Oo

rall. *p freely* *div.*

rall. *p freely* *gva-*

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