

# 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  $\text{♩} = \text{ca. } 76-80$

ACCOMP.

mp legato

rall.

(hold)

6

mp unison

S A

T B

6

mp unis.

a tempo

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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

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*rall.*

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

*rall.**Re.**Re. (hold)*

3

21

*mp a tempo*

Sa - ku - ra, sa - ku - ra,

*mp a tempo*

3

*a tempo*

3

3

*Re.**Re.**Re.**Re.**unis.*

cher - ry blos - som born of spring.

Ev - 'ry - where you

*unis.*

cher - ry blos

- som. Ev - 'ry -

3

*Re.**Re.**Re.**Re.*

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.

[31]

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*rall.*

*a tempo*

*p*

see. \_\_\_\_\_

*rall.*

*a tempo*

*Piano solo*

*mp*

*a tempo*

*rall.*

*(hold)*

Oo, \_\_\_\_\_

Oo, \_\_\_\_\_

*p*

Oo, \_\_\_\_\_

Oo, \_\_\_\_\_

*rall.*

*rall.*

*rall.*

*rall.*

*rall.*

*rall.*

*Oo, \_\_\_\_\_*

*Oo, \_\_\_\_\_*

[42]

[42]

*rall.*

*rall.*

*rall.*

*rall.*

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The musical score consists of eight staves of music for two voices. The top staff is for the soprano voice (C-clef) and the bottom staff is for the bass voice (F-clef). Both staves are in G major (two sharps) and common time. The music features various note heads, stems, and rests. The vocal parts are separated by a brace. The lyrics include "unis.", "Oo, \_\_\_\_\_", and "rall.". The score concludes with a measure ending in common time and a final measure starting in 3/4 time.

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8

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unis.

Oo, \_\_\_\_\_ Oo, \_\_\_\_\_ Oo, \_\_\_\_\_  
unis.

rall.

rall.

3

rall.

(hold)

51 *mp a tempo*

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

*mp a tempo*

51 *a tempo* 3 *a tempo* 3

unis.

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 -

3 *a tempo* 3 *a tempo* 3

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

ta - su - kah - gee - ree ka - su - mi -  
 tali - sooh \*kah - gee - ree kah - soo - mee -

3 *a tempo* 3 *a tempo* 3

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\*“gee” as in geese

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

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

unis.

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

rall.

, *p* freely

div.

un.

(oon)

rall.

Oo

, *p* freely

div.

rall.

, *p*

freely

8va

Rea (hold)

Rea Rea

Rea

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