

Sakura Sakura さくらさくら (Cherry Blossoms, Cherry Blossoms)

Traditional music and text from Edo period (1603-1868)

さくら さくら

Sakura Sakura
(cherry cherry)

桜 さくら

(Cherry blossoms, cherry blossoms)

やよいの そらは

Yayoi-no sora-wa
(March of sky is)

弥生の空は

(Sky of March is)

みわたす かぎり

Miwatasu kagiri
(look across as far as)

見渡す限り

(As far as one can see)

かすみか くもか

Kasumi-ka kumo-ka
(mist or clouds or)

霞か雲か

(Is it mist or clouds?)

においぞ いづる

Nioi-zo izuru
(fragrance emerge)

匂いぞ 出づる

(Fragrance emerges)

いざや いざや

Izaya izaya
(well then, well then)

いざや いざや

(Well then, well then,)

みに ゆかん

Mini yukan
(to see let's go)

見に行かん

(Let's go and see them!)

-This song was originally a *koto* (Japanese stringed instrument) piece from the Edo period.

-It became one of the most well-known Japanese melodies in the Western world, and it was used in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*.

-When it was used in music textbooks as a *shōka* (school song) in 1941, a new and more modern text was created for young children. However, it is more commonly sung with the original text, which is printed above.

-Among the classical singers, this song is most often performed in YAMADA Kōsaku's arrangement with a piano part that alludes the sound of *koto*. However, it is also effective to sing this song without accompaniment.