

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 unison setting. An English translation featuring a simple two-part 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 vocal 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

SAKURA

Two-Part, accompanied

Japanese Folk Song
Arrangement and English Translation by
MICHAEL SCOTT

Performance time: 3:28

Gently ♩ = ca. 76-80

ACCOMP.

mp
legato

rall.

(hold)

[6] *mp* All voices unison

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

[6] *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 - zo - roo ee - zah - yah ee - zah - yah

*"gee" as in geese

a tempo *rall.*

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

rall. 3

mp a tempo

I Sa - ku - ra, sa - ku - ra,
II Sa - ku - ra, sa - ku - ra,

a tempo 3 3

cher - ry blos - som born of spring. Ev - 'ry - where you
cher - ry blos - som. Ev - 'ry -

3

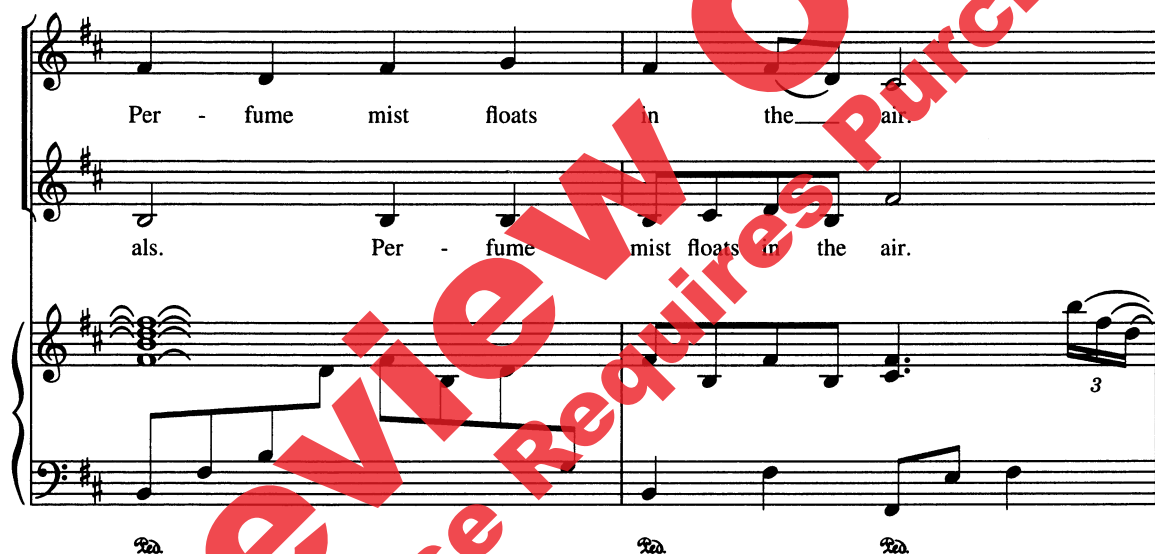
look a - round, clouds of pet - als fill the sky.

where you look a-round, clouds of pet -



Per - fume mist floats in the air.

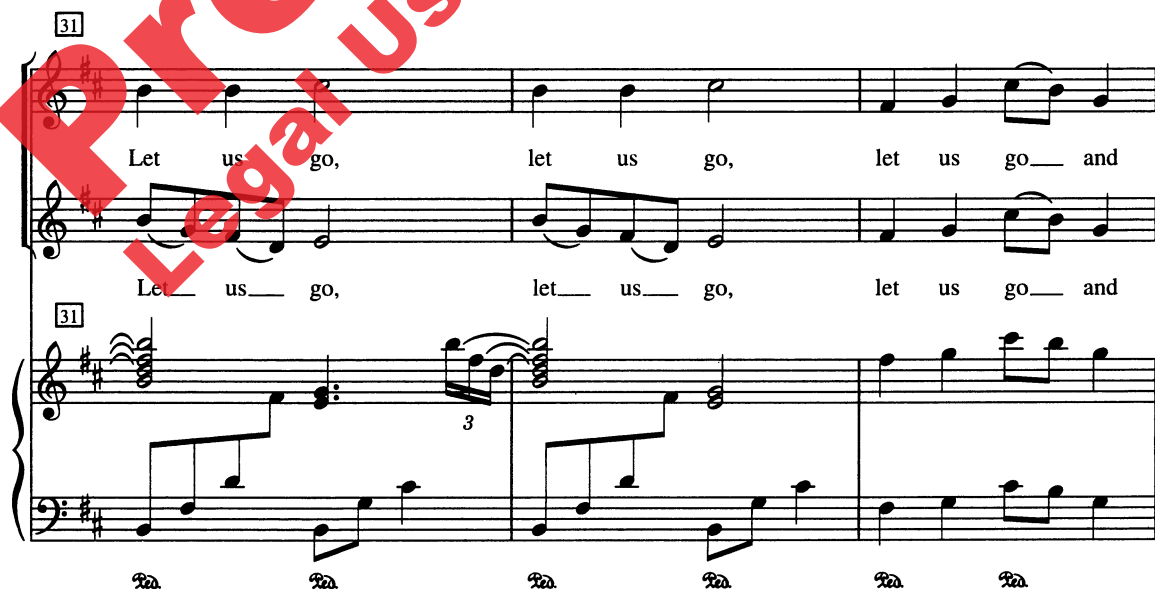
als. Per - fume mist floats in the air.



31 Let us go, let us go, let us go and

Let us go, let us go, let us go and

31



rall. *a tempo* *p*

see. *rall.* *a tempo* *p* Oo,

see. Oo,

Piano solo

rall. *mp* *a tempo*

(hold)

Oo, Oo,

Oo, Oo,

42 Oo,

Oo,

42

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Oo, Oo, Oo, Oo,

rall.

rall.

rall.

3

(hold)

51

mp a tempo

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

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

a tempo

3 3

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

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

3 3

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

3 3

*“gee” as in geese

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 -

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

rall. *p* freely

un. Oo

oon) *p* freely

rall. *p* freely

un. Oo

oon) *p* freely

gva- 3

rall. *p* freely

(hold)

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