

Music from Japan: Pedagogical Piano Pieces and Beyond

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*Beg. = Beginning level // Int. = Intermediate level // Adv. = Advanced level

TRANSCRIPTION OF TRADITIONAL JAPANESE MUSIC

1. **Haru no Umi (春の海)** by Michio Miyagi (宮城道雄). Originally for koto & shakuhachi. Arranged by Norihiko Wada (和田則彦) for solo piano. Available also for flute and piano duo, etc. Int.
2. **Sakura Sakura: A Fantasy for Piano (さくらさくら 幻想曲)** by Kozaburo Hirai (平井康三郎). Int.
3. **Variations on the Theme of Kojo no Tsuki (荒城の月・変奏曲)** for solo piano by Kozaburo Hirai (平井康三郎). Original Song by Rentaro Taki (滝廉太郎) and Kousaku Yamada (山田耕作). Int.
4. **“Variation on Theme of Japanese Songs”** solo piano collection by Haruna Miyake (三宅椎名). An excellent book containing a variety of variations on notable traditional/folk Japanese songs. Beg. & Int.

SELECTED COMPOSERS & SOLO PIANO PIECES

1. **Akira Yuyama 湯山 昭 (b. 1932)**
 - From “CONFECTIONS: A PIANO SWEET ピアノ曲集 お菓子の世界” Int.
 - Kaki no tane 柿の種
 - Ama-natto 甘納豆
 - Konpeito 金平糖
 - Birthday cake バースデー・ケーキ
 - Getting Fatter (Why Do I Get Fat) どうしてふとるのかしら
 - “Children’s Country” こどもの国 Beg.
 - “Children’s World” こどもの世界 Beg.
 - “Children’s Universe” こどもの宇宙 Beg.
 - “Sunday Sonatinas” 日曜日のソナチナ Int./ Early Adv.
 - “Constellation of Sounds” 音の星座 Int.
2. **Akira Miyoshi 三善 晃 (1933-2013)**
 - From “A Diary Of The Sea 海の日記帳” Beg. / Int.
 - Arabesque of Waves 波のアラベスク Int.
 - The Keyboard Sunken 沈んでいった鍵盤 Int.
 - Good Night, Sunset おやすみ、夕映え Int.
 - Sonata pour piano ピアノソナタ Adv.
 - En Vers Adv.
3. **Shin-ichiro Ikebe 池辺 晋一郎 (b. 1943) *studied with Miyoshi**
 - From “Clouds’ Walk | Rhythm Cassette 雲の散歩 | リズムの小箱” Beg./ Early Int.
 - Afternoon Clouds Sing a Lullaby 昼さがりの雲は子守歌を歌う Late Beg.
 - La terre est bleue comme une orange... 大地は蒼い一個のオレンジのような・・・ Adv.
 - Sway Green Treetops (ゆさぶれ 青い梢を) Adv. *commissioned by Hamamatsu Int’l Piano Competition
4. **Atsutada Otaka 尾高 惇忠 (1944-2021) *studied with Miyoshi**
 - From “De la MER musicale: Douze pieces pour piano 音の海から” Int. / Early Adv.

- L'approche du printemps 春の足音 Int.
- Parisiennes coquettes お洒落なパリジェンヌ Int.

5. **Chihiro Todoroki 轟千尋** (unknown) *studied with Otaka

- From "Little Landscapes in a Starry Town 星降る街の小さな風景"
 - In the Cherry Blossom Season 桜のころ Late Beg. / Early Int.
- From "Children's Recital Pieces: Komorebi no Etude "
 - Komorebi no Etude 木漏れ日のエチュード Int.

6. **Karen Tanaka 田中 カレン** (b. 1961) *studied with Yuyama and Miyoshi

- Lavender Field ラヴェンダー・フィールド (ABRSM Grade 6 exam piece) Int.
- "Love in the Wind: In memory of Akira Miyoshi" Late Beg. / Early Int.

7. **Yoshinao Nakada 中田 喜直** (1923-2000)

- From "The Piano Pieces For Children 子供のピアノ曲" Beg.
 - Japanese traditional Children's Song わらべうた
 - Japanese Festival おまつり
 - Etude Allegro エチュード・アレグロ

8. **Toshiro Mayuzumi 黛敏朗** (1929-1997)

- Dance of Golden Branch 金の枝の踊り (from ballet, "Kaguyahime かぐや姫") Int.

9. **Makiko Kinoshita 木下牧子** (b. 1956)

- "Forest Memories 記憶の森" Late Int. / Early Adv.

10. **Tokuhide Niimi 新実 徳英** (b. 1947)

- "Preludes of Winds 風のプレリュード" Early Adv.
- Etudes for Piano- questions to gods ピアノのためのエチュード—神々への問い Adv.

11. **Akira Nishiimura 西村朗** (b. 1953)

- Mirror of Star 星の鏡 Adv.
- Obalesque Sonata オパールの光のソナタ Adv.
- Three Visions 三つの幻影 Adv.

12. **Toru Takemitsu 武満徹** (1930-1996)

- Piano Distance ピアノディスタンス Adv.
- Rain Tree 雨の樹：素描 Adv.
- Rain Tree II 雨の樹：素描 II Adv.
- Romance ロマンس Adv.

13. **Keitaro Takahashi 高橋溪太郎** (b. 1986) programmer, electronics

- Furin 風鈴 for prepared piano Adv.
- Ryouka 嶺嶺 for prepared piano Adv.

14. **Hitomi Kaneko 金子仁美** (b. 1965)

- Un jour avec le piano ある日ピアノと Adv.

COLLABORATIVE PIECES, COMPOSITIONS FOR OTHER INSTRUMENTS

1. Tomojiro Ikenouchi 池内友次郎 (1906-1991)
 - Ballade Sur Un Air Japonais Ancient 日本古謡によるバラード for cello & piano Adv.
2. Yuko Uebayashi 上林裕子 (b. 1975)
 - Sonata for Flute and Piano フルートソナタ Adv
3. Toshiro Mayuzumi 黛敏朗 (1929-1997)
 - Concertino for Xylophone and Wind Ensemble 木琴小協奏曲 (piano reduction) Late Int.
4. Keiko Abe 安倍圭子 (b. 1937)
 - Marimba Concertino "The WAVE" for Solo Marimba and Woodwind Ensemble (piano reduction) Adv.
5. Takashi Yoshimatsu 吉松隆 (b. 1970)
 - Fuzzy Bird Sonata for Alto Saxophone and Piano ファジーバードソナタ Adv

EXPLORING MORE MUSIC WITH JAPANESE MUSIC STYLES

- Listen to choir pieces and art songs by composers listed above
- Listen to pieces for orchestra, woodwind ensemble, commercial music, and marimba
- Listen to traditional music performed by traditional Japanese instruments:
 - Shakuhachi 尺八, Shamisen 三味線, Koto 琴, Wadaiko (Taiko) 和太鼓
- Watch overtures from "Taiga Drama 大河ドラマ" historical drama series in Japan
 - Orchestration in dramatic styles
 - Often using a mixture of Japanese traditional instruments with western instruments
- Prominent Traditional Japanese Folk Song Composers:
 - Rentaro Taki 滝廉太郎
 - Kosaku Yamada 山田耕作
- Modern Composers (a variety of genres)
 - Joe Hisaishi 久石譲
 - Ryuichi Sakamoto 坂本龍一
 - Keiske Kuwata 桑田佳祐
 - Miyuki Nakajima 中島みゆき
 - Yumi Arai 荒井由美

RESOURCES FROM JAPAN:

- Music Publisher: Ongaku no tomo Edition (音楽之友社) <http://www.ongakunotomo.co.jp>
- Music Publisher: Zen on gakufu shuppansha (全音楽譜出版社) <http://www.zen-on.co.jp/>
- Music Publisher: Kawai shuppansha (カワイ出版社) <http://editionkawai.jp>
- Buy multiple music to save international shipping fee: Amazon Japan www.amazon.co.jp
- PTNA (Piano Teachers' National Association of Japan) ピティナ <https://www.piano.or.jp>
- JSCM (Japanese Society for Contemporary Music) (日本現代音楽協会) <https://www.jscm.net/>