

JAPANESE SONG SERIES I

THE MOON ON THE RUINED CASTLE (Kojo no Tsuki): This song was written by Bansui Doi and composed by Rentaro Taki for the occasion of the publication of "The Song for Junior High Schools" in March, 1901, edited by the Tokyo School of Music

Bansui Doi (1871-1952) was born in Sendai and was a graduate of the Department of English Literature, Tokyo Imperial University. With the publication of his poems "Tenchi ujo" in 1899, he established him-self as a leading poet of his age.

Rentaro Taki (1878-1903) was born in Tokyo and, after graduating from the Tokyo School of Music, he proceeded to Germany for study. However, his illness brought him back to Tokyo in the following year and died in Oita, his father's home town in Kyushu, at the age of 23.

THE EVEN GLOW (Yuyake Koyake): This song was written by Uko Nakamura and composed by Shin Kusakawa in July, 1923

Uko Nakamura (1897-1973) was born in Tokyo and graduated from the Aoyama Normal High School He studied lyric under Ujo Noguchi and was active as a lyric writer while engaged in teaching.

Shin Kusakawa (1893-1948) was born in Nagano and was a graduate of the Tokyo School of Music. While engaged in teaching, he took part in the children's magazine Red Bird and was active as a composer of children's music.



JAPANESE SONG SERIES II

MOMUI (maple leaves), was composed in 1911 for the second graders in elementary school and FURUSATO (birthplace) in 1914 for the six graders by Teiichi Okano to the lyrics written by Tatsuyuki Takano.

Tatsuyuki Takano (1876-1947) was born in Nagano prefecture, and studied Japanese under Kazutoshi Ueda before obtaining a professor-ship at the Tokyo School of Music in 1910. He was awarded with a Litt. D. and an Academy Award on his work, A History of Japanese Ballads and Songs. He is said to have been inspired by his memories of his birthplace when he wrote the two lines in FURUSATO, "That mountain where I ran after the rabbit, that river where I fished the carp".

Teiichi Okano (1878-1941) was born in Tottori Prefecture and held a professorship at the Tokyo School of Music. He was also on the Editorial Committee of the Ministry of Education responsible for the selection of songs for school children, composing, at the same time, many songs written by Takano which were to be sung by generations of children such as "Spring brook", "Hazy moon" and "Spring has come".



JAPANESE SONG SERIES III

"FUYUGESHIKI" (Wintry Scene) was written and composed in 1913 for the 5th graders of Elementary School Children, though both the writer and the composer cannot be identified.

The text describes in a concise style, scenes of early winter morning, noon and evening and is said to one of the best poetic texts among the songs prescribed by the Ministry of Education. The song currently forms part of the teaching material for the 5th graders.

"FUJI-SAN" (Mt. Fuji) was composed for the Songs for Elementary School Children published in July, 1910, by the Ministry of Education, the first elementary school song book, depicting the famed Japanese mountain. The text was taken from the Elementary School Reader compiled by the Ministry; but the name of the composer is not known. The song is currently included in the teaching material for the 3rd graders.



JAPANESE SONG SERIES IV

HARU NO OGAWA (Spring brook): This song was written by Tatsuyuki Takano and composed by Teiichi Okano in 1912 for fourth graders, the same team that produced MAPLE LEAVES and BIRTHPLACE selected for the Series II. This song is currently included in the teaching material for third graders.

SAKURA SAKURA (Cherry blossoms): This song was included in the Book of Japanese Zither Music compiled by the Director of Music of the Ministry of Education and published by the Tokyo School of Music in 1888. It is said that with the publication of the book modernization of KOTO music began in Japan.

This song, particulars of which are not available, is one of the traditional Japanese songs and seems to have been known to the public since the Edo period. It is currently included in the teaching material for fourth graders.



JAPANESE SONG SERIES V

UMI (The Sea) appeared in 1941 in Songbook I for use in first grade of Elementary School and was written by Ryuha Hayashi and composed by Takeshi Inoue. It is currently used as general teaching material in Grade One of Elementary School.

Ryuha Hayashi (1893-1974) was born in Gumma Prefecture. He was appointed a member of the Textbook Compilation Committee of the Ministry of Education in 1941. Among his other lyrics are 'Ouma' (The Horse) and 'Uguisu' (The Nightingale).

Takeshi Inoue (1894-1974) was born in Gumma Prefecture. He was a professor at Toyo University of Music and served, among other posts, as President of the Japan Society for Music Education.

OBORO-ZUKI YO (The Night of the Hazy Moon) was composed in 1914 for inclusion in Elementary School Songs and is said to be the finest song in that textbook. It was written by Tatsuyuki Takano and composed by Teiichi Okano and is now used in sixth grade of Elementary School.



JAPANESE SONG SERIES VI

HINOMARU (The Rising Sun): This song appeared in 1911 as the "Hinomaru no Hata" (Flag of the Rising Sun) for use in the first grade of Elementary School and the melody was revised in part in the 1941 edition of Songbook No. 1. The song was written by Tatsuyuki Takano and music was by Teiichi Okano. It is now used in the first grade of Elementary School.

NATSU NO OMOIDE (Memories of Summer): This ballad was first broadcasted on NHK Radio in June 1949. It enjoyed nationwide popularity and brought fame to the Marshes of Oze.

Lyrics are by Shoko Erna and music by Yoshinao Nakada. It is now included in the teaching material for the second year of Junior High School.



JAPANESE SONG SERIES VII

HAMABE NO UTA (Song by the Sea): This song, currently included in the teaching material for the 2nd grade of junior high school was written by Kokei Hayashi and composed by Tamezo Narita in 1916.

Kokei Hayashi (1875-1947), who was born in Tokyo, was a professor at Rissho University after graduating from the Tetsugakukan. However, as he also taught at Tokyo School of Music for a while, he left several songs.

Tamezo Narita (1893-1945), born in Kita Akita-gun, Akita prefecture, graduated from the Teachers' Course of Tokyo School of Music and left numerous compositions including the children's song, Canary.

AKA TONBO (Red Dragonfly): The text of this song was included in the Acorn, a collection of children's songs written by Rofu Miki, published in 1921. Kosaku Yamada composed the music in 1927. It is currently included in the teaching material for the 1st grade of junior high school.

Rofu Miki (1889-1964), born in Tatsuno, Hyogo prefecture, studied at Waseda and Keio Universities and published collections of his poems such as the Summer Princess and the Abandoned Garden. He also wrote children's songs for the magazine, Red Bird.

Kosaku Yamada (1886-1965), born in Tokyo, studied in Germany after graduating from Tokyo School of Music. His wide-ranging music activities covered children's songs, songs and orchestral music. He was awarded with a Cultural Medal.



JAPANESE SONG SERIES VIII

KOMORI-UTA (Lullaby): This traditional nursery song, of which no particulars are available, was first included in a school song book in 1941, and is currently included in the teaching material for 5th graders.

YASHI-NO-MI (Coconut) This song, first appeared in the *Rakubaisyu*, an anthology of poetry by Toson Shimazaki published in 1901, was composed by Toraji Ohnaka in 1936 for the NHK Radio series, "People's Songs", and became very popular among the Japanese people. It is currently included in the teaching material for the 3rd grade of junior high school.

Toson Shimazaki (1872-1943), born in Kiso-gun, Nagano Prefecture, founded the *Bungakukai* (Literary World) with Tokoku Kitamura after graduating from Meiji Gakuin, contributing poems and essays. He left numerous works including the *Wakanashu*, an anthology of poetry, and novels such as *The Sketch of the Chikuma River*, *The Transgression* and *the Before the Dawn*.

Toraji Ohnaka (* 1896), born in Tokyo, studied composition under Kosaku Yamada after graduating from Doshisha University. His numerous works include *The Oyster Shell*, *Church Oratorio* and many choral works.



JAPANESE SONG SERIES IX

The verse of this song was written by Tatsuyuki TAKANO and its music was composed by Teiichi OKANO for the Elementary School text-book in 1910. It is now included in the teaching material for the second grade of Elementary School. Numerous famous songs were produced by them e.g., "MOMIJI" (Maple Leaves) and "FURUSATO" (The Birthplace) included in the Japanese Song Series II, "HARU NO OGAWA" (Spring Brook) included in the Japanese Song Series IV, and "OBORO-ZUKI YO" (The Night of the Hazy Moon) included in the Japanese Song Series V.

HANA (Cherry Blossoms): This song appears in the song book entitled "SHIKI" (Four Seasons). Its verse was written by Hagoromo Takeshima and its music was composed by Rentaro Taki. It is now included in the teaching material for the third grade of Junior High School.

Hagoromo Takeshima (1872-1967), born in Tokyo, taught in the Tokyo Music College and the Japan Women's University. Beside "HANA" (Cherry Blossoms), "UTSUKUSHIKI TENNEN" (Nature the Beautiful) is famous among his poems.

Rentaro Taki (1879-1903) was born in Tokyo. After graduating from the Tokyo Music College, he went to Germany for the purpose of study in 1901. However, he returned home next year due to illness, and died at an early age of 23 years old. He left us famous songs such as "KOJO NO TSUKI" (The Moon over a Ruined Castle) and "HAKONE NO YAMA" (Mt. Hakone).



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