



FROM JAPAN

A Selection of Japanese Songs arranged for Suzuki Violin group performance. Includes parts for singing as well as violin parts for several levels of experience. This is a free PDF is the Group Magic Series by John Krumm. You can find it at John's Website, ww.johnkrumm.com. Feel free to pass it around. For educational purposes only.



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INTRODUCTION

As an elementary school music and dance teacher for many years, I often, with more or less success tried to incorporate the home and music lesson music experiences of my students into my classes.

In 2005 my son Tom began taking violin lessons with Chris Brennan-Hagy, a dynamic Suzuki teacher. I attended her group lessons and began to wonder if I had anything to offer the group which is aligned with the Suzuki philosophy. The skills of playing together, of fine tuning harmonies by listening, of developing group arrangements were some things I could bring to the table. Another value I cherish is that everyone can contribute in the creation of beautiful music. To that end, I created arrangements which included parts for new players as well as singing for all.

The pieces are presented in shorthand notation. This requires one to arrange the various elements into a formal structure. This can be done with the students. Creating with musical form is an essential part of developing musicianship and an appreciation of longer works. You could use a white board to map out an arrangement with suggestions from the players. What comes first? Singing or playing. What can we do do as an intro? Shall we layer parts or come in as a block. How do we end?

The harmonies are all in violin range. If you are working with other instruments you may want to transpose some parts.

Otherwise, these are good songs for just singing with each other. Voice is our first instrument and a very important part in learning violin and developing a sense of community

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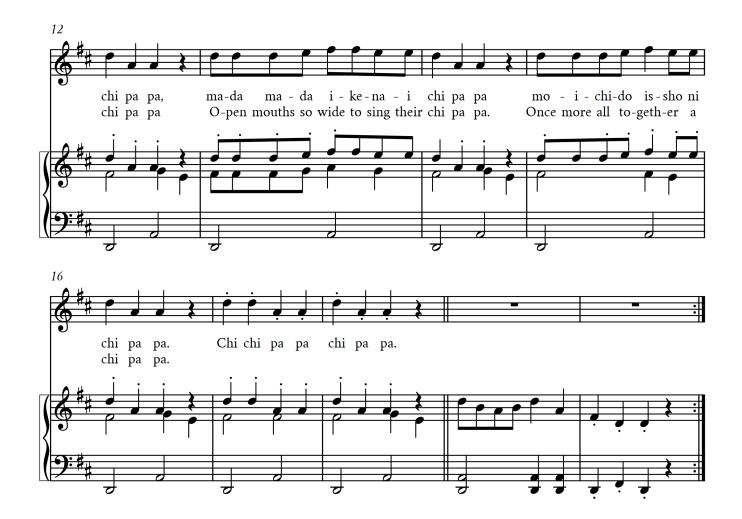
Suzume no Gako	6
Kaeru no Uta	8
Uma	9
Kagome	10
Sakura	12

SUZUME NO GAKO

3-part round at *

Traditional Japanese





ARRANGEMENT

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Sing 1x in Japanese and repeat in English.

Begin again as a 3-part round at *..

(Don't play piano intro and outro during round.)

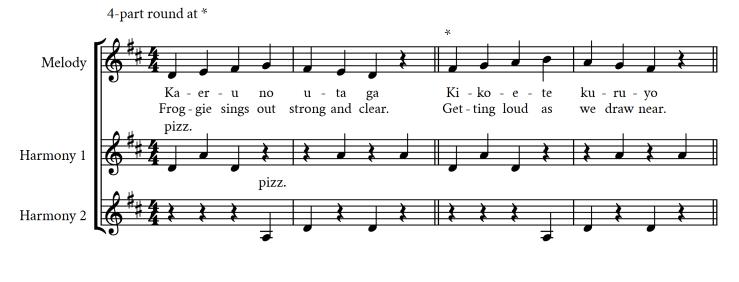
Play piano outro again after all groups finish singing.

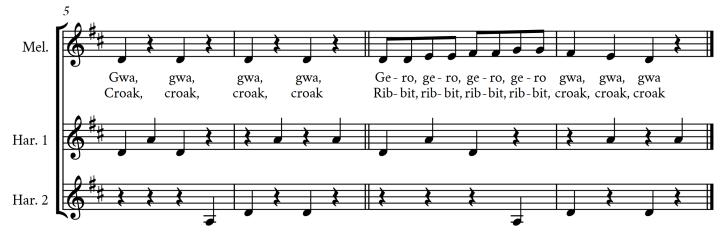
KAERU NO UTA

Der Froschgesang

Trad Japanese

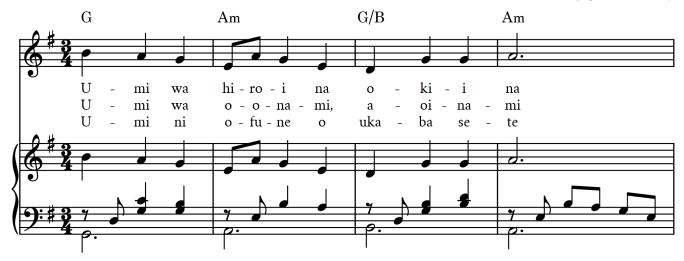
Trad German

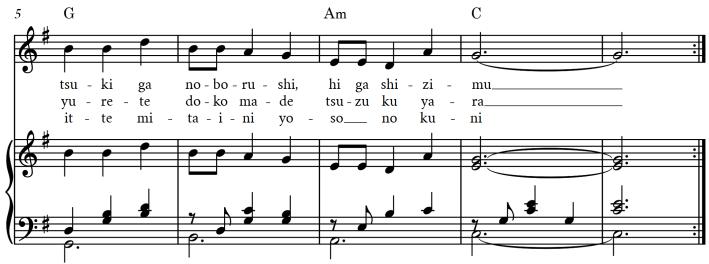




UMΙ

Trad. Japanese Lullaby





海は広いな 大きいな 月が昇るし 日が沈む

海は大波 青い波 揺れてどこまで続くやら

海にお船を 浮かばせて

Grand is the mighty sea, majestic and deep There where the moon awakes, the sun will go to sleep

Grand are the mighty waves, the water so blue I wonder where the sea and all the waves go to

Many the tiny ships that sail on the the sea Someday to foreign lands those ships will carry me

KAGOME

Traditional Japanese



The Game:

FORMATION: Single circle of "free birds" flying clockwise in a circle around a "caged bird whi is kneeling in the center hiding her eyes.

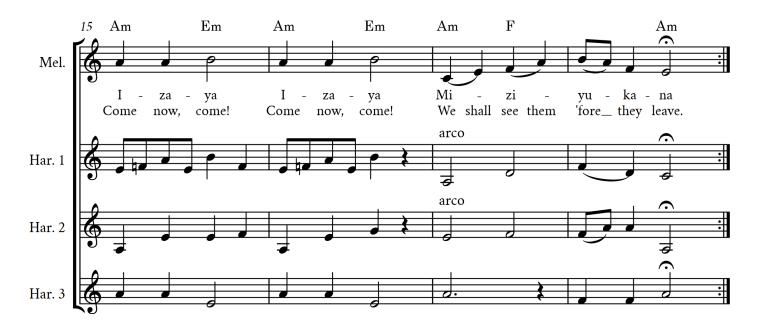
STEP: Walking to the beat.

Measures 1 to 8: "Free birds" fly around and all sing the song. Measure 9: "Free birds" stop and face the center and all sing the remainder of the song.

1 free bird is chosen by leader (or the child who is behind the caged bird) to say, "Kagome, Kagome" "Caged bird" guesses who the speaker is. Speaker goes to the center, and the "caged bird" flies out to be with the "free birds." Game begins again.

SAKURA





Sakura is in the Japanese "In" scale.

The In Scale Formula: 1, b2, 4, 5, b6. In this case, the scale is E, F, A, B, C.

This is a popular scale for the Koto.

I arranged the accompaniment using the In scale along with pizzicato for the first two harmony parts to imitate the plucking of the Koto. I left part 3 legato in case that was more accessible for less experienced players.



A traditional fiddler, square dance caller, composer, performer, and choral conductor. He taught elementary school music and dance for 35 years. For the last 15 years John has worked with Suzuki Violin Teacher, Chris Brennan-Hagy in group lessons as accompanist and musical enhancement arranger.

Visit his Website at:

www.johnkrumm.com