

LITTLE GIRLS' BEAUTIFUL LIVES

The twelve pieces of music here are the sketches of everyday lives, the playful moments and dreams of little girls. More precisely, they express the transient moment between young childhood and adolescence. They reflect the images of my daughters and also the misty memory of my own past. I may have spent those days differently if I had the chance. These fantasies naturally enter the work. Of course, the pieces are not solely dedicated to my personal memories and wishes. I believe that each girl is given and grows with a sacred and simple flower of love. The flowers of the girls of the age I depict here have not yet been sullied or distorted by the contempt that surrounds them and reciprocal irritation. Through the pieces here, I tried to describe the beauty of the flowers and also the linkage the girls possess with 'the unlimited'. My wish is that they will grow into perfection with increasing depth under a protective care. I pray for this.

The girls' delightful surprise when they find simple and modest flowers in roadside grasses. Their sudden silence in sadness when they find the dead butterflies and cicadas with beautiful wings at the end of summer. The moment when their countenance lights up with joy when discovering the round and green fruits among the green thick foliage above them. The girls have no contempt in the quotidian and they have the sense of finding such humble beauty. This is connected with 'the unlimited'. It is plaintive that because of the sensitivity their heart often suffers.

Our civilization has become increasingly masculine because of the development of science and imbalanced because of the relentless pursuit of power and monetary riches. Civilization has become destructive. It is inevitable that the girls' sadness prolongs in this environment. However, if there is a way in which they can live without numbing, destroying their lively feelings they will add elegance and serenity to the barren landscape. The sadness of the little girls, their silent cries become thin, needle streaks of rain. This will be absorbed even into the armored rational heart of adults.

1. Morning with Roosters

Dawn. The little girls wake to the sound of the roosters. They feed them and chase them, round and round, and then get chased themselves!

2. Floating Paper Boats on the River

This piece was inspired by a poem by the great Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore. One afternoon, a little paper boat floats down a river. A little girl's name is written on it. In the evening, she sees, in a dream, the boat floating slowly down the Milky Way.

3. Bicycling to the Wizard's Wood

The bicycle. A commonplace thing for adults but a shining treasure that brims with delight for many children. I am sure you would like to take your bicycle into the deep wood. What secrets will the woods reveal?

4. Raindrops Recolour the Landscape

Raindrops trickle and curl across the windowpane. Look! What joy! They fashion vivid colours on dry stones, roads, the ground and leaves.

5. Fireworks in a Starry Sky

Science has wrought knowledge and information. However, this does diminish the feeling of mystery that stars evoke. Do not fireworks signal the presence of magical power more than an elaborate conjuring trick?

6. Birds Peck-Pecking on Branches

The sound of birds peck-pecking together. Their nimble joy delights us but what an awful noise for the worms under the tree.

7. An Annamese Bowl with Leisurely Goldfish

Well, here is a goldfish bowl. As in Vietnamese houses, a few pop-eyed goldfish swim leisurely in a large blue and white porcelain bowl.

8. A Sad Melody at Twilight

This describes the sad longing that strikes the heart.

9. Daughter of the Mountain

This refers the daughter of mountain people in the Russian story 'Stone Flower'. She may not be a human maid. Perhaps a malachite nymph?

10. Children Chasing Birds

Children are chasing the birds who are picking and pecking at the scraps of rice and corn in the field. This was an important work for farmers. The movements of the body involved in the work are atmospheric and evoke a sense of fun. Thus, it has become the motif of much artistic performance. This piece of music presents the image of children copying the movements. The main melody is made by Kanahi, our second daughter.

11. New Year's Eve in a Far-off Land

The writing of this was prompted by Alfred Tennyson's poem "New Year's Eve" in the Victorian era in England; a scene from a dream and a fairy-tale world, detached from reality, bringing the feeling of distance: "In a Far-off Land".

12. Lullaby of the Waves

The waves come and go. They are a lullaby. My second son Namifu ('Wave Boy') was sung a lullaby by Koyumi, my eldest daughter.

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