

Our vocal ensemble *écho des anz* was founded locally here in the Bay Area in late 2020. Because the world was experiencing COVID 19 then, we started out as a virtual choir. Like many singers and musicians everywhere at the time, we struggled but wanted to keep the music alive. Now, we are so happy and honored to share our live performance with you at this beautiful and historical Montalvo Arts Center.

Let us introduce ourselves: Miyuki Mori is our leader and producer. Yoshiko Kimura and Ryoko Rueth are singers who share a passion for music with her. Another member Yukiko Takeuchi is in Japan this month and cannot be with us tonight. We don't have particular voice parts assigned to specific members and rotate what part to sing, depending on the song and the preference of each member. Together, we have sung classical music, church music, folk songs and popular songs, mostly in English or Japanese, but we also sing in different languages like Basque.

Écho des anz often collaborates with guest musicians. In today's event, Tom Tanoue with Mixed Chorus Kakehashi* sings a male voice part and plays the viola for us. AKIRA is a voice percussionist. While he cannot be here tonight, we are using his pre-recorded performance in the Theme from Lupin III. And at last but not least, Pianist Sarah Zhong will play beautiful accompaniments which we are sure that you will enjoy very much.

*Yoshiko Kimura, Ryoko Rueth, and Yukiko Takeuchi belong to Mixed Chorus Kakehashi, too.

Tonight, we'd like to share and introduce Japanese choir culture which has broad roots in many different cultures as well as to celebrate this occasion presenting Japan's Natsu Matsuri or summer festival's atmosphere to you. Below please see the songs we are performing tonight, followed by their Japanese lyrics and into-English translations:

1. ***Water Is Wide*** (広い河の岸边), a Scottish folk song which we will sing in English and Japanese.

2. ***Air on the G String*** by Johann Sebastian Bach

3. ***Doukeshi no Sonnet*** (道化師のソネット), a Japanese contemporary folk song by Sada Masashi. This is a sonnet of a clown or fool in the style of an authentic Japanese 3-part female chorus. The song sings, "I'll be a clown for your smile."

4. **Theme from Lupin III** (ルパン三世のテーマ) by Senke Kazuya and Ohno Yuji, a theme music from the very popular anime bearing the same name broadcasted since 1971. The song is about a hard boiled guy's love and struggle.

5. **Homura** (炎), by Kaji-ura Yuki and Lisa. This song is from the animated movie *Kimetsu no Yaiba* (鬼滅の刃) or *Demon Slayer* which was a big hit in theaters in 2020 in Japan, and 2021 in the USA. The song is about *Homura*, the flame of passion and life under hardship. Please sing along when you recognize the chorus!

6. **Hana wa Saku** (花は咲く) or Flowers Will Bloom, composed by Kanno Yoko and lyrics by Iwai Shunji. As many of you may know, this song was composed and sung to console people in the disaster stricken areas after the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami in 2011...testifying that flowers still bloom to them even after the terrible events...

広い河の岸辺

河は広く 渡れない
飛んで行く 翼もない
もしも小舟が あるならば
漕ぎ出そう ふたりで
愛の始まりは 美しく
優しく 花のよう
時の流れに 色褪せて
朝露と 消えていく
二人の船は 沈みかける
愛の重さに 耐えきれず
沈み方も 泳ぎ方も
知らない この私

訳詞: 八木倫明

Water Is Wide (Hiroi Kawa no Kishibe)

The water is wide, I cannot cross o'er,
But neither have I the wings to fly.
Give me a boat, that can carry two,
And both shall row, my love and I.
O love is handsome and love is fine
And love's a jewel when it is new
but love grows old and waxes cold
And fades away like morning dew.
There is a ship and she sails the sea
She's loaded deep, as deep can be
But not as deep as the love I'm in
I know not if I sink or swim

道化師のソネット

Doukeshi no Sonnet

笑ってよ君のために 笑ってよ僕のために

僕達は小さな舟に 哀しみという荷物を積んで
時の流れを下ってゆく 舟人たちのようだね
君のその小さな手には 持ちきれない程の哀しみを
せめて笑顔が救うのなら 僕は道化師(ピエロ)になれるよ

笑ってよ君のために 笑ってよ僕のために
きっと誰もが同じ河の ほとりを歩いている

僕らは別々の山を それぞれの高さ目指して
息もつかずに登ってゆく 山びと達のようなね
君のその小さな腕に支えきれない程の哀しみを
せめて笑顔が救うのなら 僕は道化師になろう

笑ってよ君のために 笑ってよ僕のために
いつかほんとうに笑いながら 話せる日がくるから
笑ってよ君のために 笑ってよ僕のために
笑ってよ君のために 笑ってよ僕のために

Smile for yourself; smile for me

We're like sailors going down the stream of
time
Loading cargoes called sorrow
There's so much sorrow your tiny hands can't
hold it
If a smile can save you, I can be a clown

Smile for yourself; smile for me
Perhaps every one of us is walking along the
same river

We're like climbers tackling different mountains
Of different heights without even taking a
breath
There's so much sorrow your tiny arms can't
hold it
If a smile can save you, I'll be a clown

Smile for yourself; smile for me
For there will come a day when we can
genuinely smile and talk
Smile for yourself; smile for me
Smile for yourself; smile for me

※Translation source: <https://lyricstranslate.com>

ルパン三世のテーマ

真っ赤な薔薇はあいつの唇
優しく抱きしめてくれとねだる
瞳の奥に獲物を映して
淋しく問いかける愛のありがた
男には自分の世界がある
たとえるなら
空を駆けるひとすじの流れ星
孤独な笑みを夕日にさらして
背中で泣いてる男の美学
Lupin the Third, Lupin the Third

Theme from Lupin III

Crimson roses, that girl's lips
Pleading to be affectionately embraced
Prey reflecting within the depths of her eyes
Desperately questions for the hideout of love
A man has his own world
Need an example?
A falling star's trail running through the sky
Flashing a solitary grin to the setting sun
The manly aesthetic of crying with his back
Lupin the Third, Lupin the Third

※Translation source: <https://lyricstranslate.com>

炎

「さよなら」「ありがとう」声の限り
悲しみよりもっと大事なこと
去りゆく背中に伝えたくて
温もりと痛みに関に合うように

このまま続くと思っていた
僕らの明日を描いていた
呼び合っては 光がまだ
胸の奥に熱いのに

僕たちは燃え盛る 旅の途中で出逢い
手を通りそして離れた 未来のために
夢が一つ叶う度 僕は君を思うだろう
強くなりたいと願い 泣いた
決意を餞に

懐かしい想いに囚われたい
残酷な世界に泣き叫んで
大人になるほど増えてゆく
もう何一つだって失いたくない

悲しみに飲まれ落ちてしまえば
痛みを感じなくなるけれど
君のことば 君の願い
僕は守り抜くと誓ったんだ

Oh wow, oh, oh wow
Oh wow, oh, oh wow
音を立てて崩れ落ちてゆく
一つだけの かけがえのない世界

手を伸ばし抱き止めた 激しい光の束
輝いて消えてった 未来のために

Homura

“Goodbye” and “Thank you” at the top of my voice
What’s more important than grief?
Hoping that they reach you as we part
In time for warmth and pain

I thought it would always be like this
I envisioned our days to come
Why, when our lights are calling out each other
Still burn deep in our hearts?

We meet amidst a blaze journey
Coming together, then letting go for the sake of our
future
Every time dream comes true, I’ll remember you
Wishing to become stronger, I cried
With my resolve as a parting gift

Held captive by nostalgic memories
Wailing at the cruelty of this world
There will be even more as I grow older
I never want to lose anything again

By succumbing to the grief
I might not feel pain anymore
By your words. Your wishes
I swear to protect them to the end

Oh wow, oh, oh wow
Oh wow, oh, oh wow
With a roar, it’s crumbling down
Our one and only, irreplaceable world

The bundle of bursting light that I reached out for and
held so close
Shimmered, then disappeared for the sake of the
future

託された幸せと 約束を超えていく
振り返らずに進むから
前だけ向いて叫ぶから
心に炎を灯して 遠い未来まで

Going beyond the happiness and promise I've
entrusted
I'll keep moving forward without glancing back
Looking straight ahead, I'm going to cry out
Lighting the flame in my heart
Until I reach the distant future

※Translation source: <https://genius.com/Genius-english-translations-lisa-homura-english-translation-lyrics>

花は咲く

真っ白な雪道に、春風香る
私は なつかしい あの街を思い出す
叶えたい 夢もあった
変わりたい 自分もいた
今はただ懐かしい あの人を思い出す

Hana wa Saku (Flowers Will Bloom)

In the still white world, I feel a hint of spring breeze
It reminds me of that town which I loved long ago
I dreamed a dream. I wanted to change and grow
Just now, that friend of mine comes to my mind over and
over again

誰かの歌が聞こえる
誰かをはげましてる
誰かの笑顔が見える
悲しみの向こう側に

Someone is singing
Sending an encouraging message to someone else
I see smiles of someone
After he overcame sorrows

花は 花は 花は咲く
いつか生まれる君に
花は 花は 花は咲く
私は何を残しただろう

Flowers will bloom to celebrate you
Who will be born someday
Flowers will bloom
I wonder what I left behind in this world

花は 花は 花は咲く
いつか生まれる君に
花は 花は 花は咲く
私は何を残しただろう

Flowers will bloom to celebrate you
Who will be born someday
Flowers will bloom
I wonder what I left behind in this world

花は 花は 花は咲く
いつか生まれる君に
花は 花は 花は咲く
いつか 恋する君のために
いつか 恋する君のために

Flowers will bloom to celebrate you
Who will be born someday
Flowers will bloom to celebrate you
Who will love someone someday
Who will love someone someday

※Original translation by écho des anz