

Rofu Miki  
duration: 3 minutes

# Aka Tonbo

## Red Dragonflies

Kosaku Yomada  
arr. Jon Washburn

Moderato, with quiet intensity ♩ = 68

S. *mp* *stagger breathing for long phrases* Mm. mm.

A. *mp* Mm\*, *stagger breathing for long phrases* mm.

T. *mp* Mm\*, *stagger breathing for long phrases* mm.

B. *mp* Mm\*, *stagger breathing for long phrases* mm.

\* feel free to experiment with Oo and Ah

rehearsal only

6 *sostenuto* *poco rall.*

S. *sostenuto*

A. *sostenuto*

T. *sostenuto*

B. *sostenuto*

**A**

♩ = 70

Red dragonfly at twilight

3

11

S. *mp*  
Yuu - ya - ke ko - ya - ke no a - ka to - n - bo, O - wa - re - te  
*glow-of-evening glow-at-sunset (connector) red dragonfly being carried*

A. *p*  
Mm, mm,

T. *p*  
Mm, mm

B.

Piano accompaniment

I saw you for the first time while still a baby being carried on my sis  
...could it be that long ago?

16

**B**

S. *mp*  
mi - ta no wa i - tsu ka?  
*saw (conn.) (subject maker) w/ day (questioner)*

A. *mp*  
Mm,

T. *mp*  
Mm,

B. *mp*  
Mm,

Piano accompaniment

poco rall. . . .

**C** A tempo*Picking mulberries from the mountain field...*

21

S. *mp*  
Ya - ma no ha - ta - ke no kun-wa no mi  
mountain (conn.) field (conn.) mulberry (conn.) fruit

A. *p*  
Mm,

T. *p*  
Mm,

B.

26

S. *ar* *skets... was that all a dream?*  
o Ko-ka - ni tsu - n - da wa ma - bo - ro - shi ka?  
(object maker) small bas' in picked (subj. maker) dream (questioner)

A. *mp*  
Mm.

T. *mp*  
Mm.

B. *mp*  
Mm.

31

poco rall. . . .

**D** A tempo

My sister got married when she was fifteen...and moved far away.

S. *pp*

A. Mm,

T. *mf*  
Juu - go de nee - ya wa yo - me . - ki.  
fifteen at elder sister (subj.maker) bride went

B. *mp*  
Juu - go de nee - ya v me ni yu - ki. Mm.  
fifteen at elder sister (sv) bride to went

**D**

36

S.

A. *mp*  
mm. Mm,  
no longer sends news to our village.

T. *mp*  
O - sa - ta - yo - ri mo ta - e - ha - te - ta. Mm,  
village h (mn.) message not even stop sending

B. *mp*  
Mm,

41

S.

A.

T.

B.

mm.

mm.

mm.

45

S.

A.

T.

B.

poco rall.

**E** A tempo*Red dragonfly at twilight*

49 *mf*

S. Yuu - ya - ke ko - ya - ke no a - ka to - n - bo To - mat - te  
*glow-of-evening glow-at-sunset (conn.) red dragonfly resting*

A. *p* Mm, To mat - te  
*resting*

T. *p* Mm, mm

B. *p* Mm,

**E**

*I see you resting there on the tip of the bamboo ree*

54 *mp*

S. i - ru yo, sa - o no ki. Mm  
*is really pole (conn.)*

A. *mp* i - ru yo, no sa - ki. Mm  
*is rea' (conn.) tip*

T. *mp* Mm

B. *mp* Mm

59

S. (mm)

A. (mm)

T. (mm)

B. (mm)

This arrangement of Kosaku Yamada's popular children's song *Jo (Red Dragonfly)* was composed by **Jon Washburn** for the Vancouver Chamber Choir's third tour of Japan in 2009, with singing for the Emperor and Empress in a private concert at the Canadian embassy in Tokyo.

**Akatonbo** is a song for the autumn season. The sur-  
 missed his sister, who had married and moved aw-  
 separating the several phrases of the melody w-  
 Kosaku Yamada (1886-1965) was known for '...  
 language, as heard in this plaintive song, b-  
 World War II. He studied composition un-  
 to compose a symphony and to conduc-

... dragonfly reminded the poet, Rofu Miki, of his childhood and how much he had  
 nome and family. Jon Washburn has treated the piece as a choral fantasy,  
 polyphonic lines which express the deep feelings which the simple words evoke.  
 ... adapting melodies of Western-style music to the intonation of the Japanese  
 wrote symphonic works and operas, many of which he conducted abroad before  
 and K.L. Wolf in Berlin from 1910 to 1913 and was the first Japanese person  
 Wagner and Debussy.



Yuuyake koyake no aka-tonbo,  
 Owarete mitano wa itsu no hi ka?  
 Yama no hatake no kuwa no mi o  
 Kokago ni tsunda wa maboroshi ka?

Red dragonfly in the fading sunset,  
 long ago my sister would carry me on her back.  
 Picking mulberries from the mountain field  
 into little baskets... was that all a dream?

Juugo de neeya wa yome ni yuki  
 Osato no tayori mo taehateta.

My sister married at fifteen and moved far away.  
 She no longer sends news to our village.

Yuuyake koyake no aka-tonbo,  
 Tomatte iruyo, sao no saki.

Red dragonfly in the fading sunset,  
 I see you resting on the tip of the bamboo reed.

**Jon** is the Founder and Conductor Emeritus of the Vancouver Chamber Choir, Canada's outstanding professional vocal ensemble with Artistic and Executive Director for 48 years. He has earned international acclaim for mastery of choral technique and interpretation, as guest conductor, lecturer, clinician and master teacher. He conducted dozens of performances each year, recorded nearly 50 CDs, and offered countless workshops and residencies for choral conductors, composers, students and singers.

Jon Washburn is an active composer, arranger, lyricist and editor, published by G. Schirmer, Walton, Cypress, Oxford UP, Earthsongs and others. His music is widely published, performed and recorded around the world. He is a noted champion of new choral repertoire, having commissioned and premiered over 300 new compositions by Canadian, American and European composers. He has conducted thousands of performances of works by Canadian composers, for which he received the Friends of Canadian Music Award from the Canadian League of Composers and Canadian Music Centre. In 2001 he was given the Order of Canada (the nation's highest civilian honour) and subsequently received Queen Elizabeth's Silver, Golden and Diamond Jubilee Medals, recognizing his lifetime contribution to Canadian arts and culture. He was awarded a star on Vancouver's Entertainment Walk of Fame and has received both the Louis Botto and Michael Korn awards from Chorus America, marking his long devotion to the development of professional choirs and the choral art.