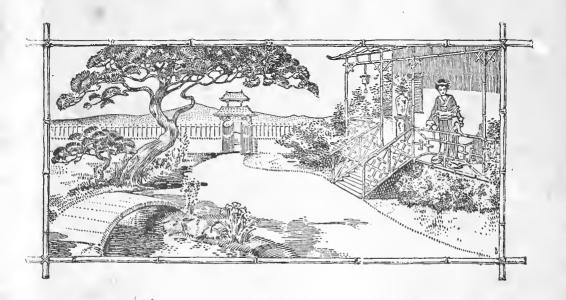
THE JAPANESE GIRL

OPERETTA

IN TWO ACTS

FOR WOMEN'S VOICES



BY CHARLES VINCENT

"The Persian Princess," "The American Girl,"
"The Egyptian Princess," and "The Lost Necklace."

PIANO OR ORCHESTRA ACCOMPANIMENT



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THE JAPANESE GIRL

An Operetta in Two Acts for Women's Voices

Libretto by JEANIE QUINTON ROSSE

Music by

CHARLES VINCENT

Vocal Score						n. 1	.00
Lib r etto					3.00	per :	100
Stage Manag	ge r 's	Сору	, cont	tainii	ng		
directions	for t	he da	inces		-	n.	.50

Orchestra parts may be hired from the Publishers. Terms furnished upon request



THE BOSTON MUSIC COMPANY 26-28 WEST STREET, BOSTON, MASS.

Argument

The idea of this operetta was suggested by reading an account of a picturesque custom prevalent in some parts of Japan. When a near relative has to be absent from home for a considerable period he often leaves behind a growing plant, young tree, or singing bird, which is called by his name and regarded as his substitute.

The greatest care is bestowed on this object, as it is considered most unlucky to the person whom it represents, should any harm befall it during his absence.

The first act opens by a number of Japanese girls visiting O Hanu San, a young Japanese beauty who is about to celebrate her eighteenth birthday, regarded in Japan as "the coming of age."

Some amusement is caused by Chaya, her faithful servant, who appears to be overburdened by work.

The story is told in the dialogue and songs and contains many amusing and interesting situations.

In the second act, two American girls, who are touring in Japan with their governess for education and pleasure, are impelled by curiosity to enter the garden, and while their governess is sketching they slip away from her.

The Japanese girls returning resent the intrusion of a foreigner and awake the governess, who has fallen asleep at her easel, and pretend not to understand her explanations. O Hanu San comes to her rescue and in the end invites the American ladies to remain as her guests and witness the interesting and quaint ceremonies which are about to commence. They accept gratefully and win the hearts of all.

Potice

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Characters*

O Hanu San (Beautiful flower)	Soprano	A Japanese Girl of position		
O Kitu San (Sweet Chrysanthemum)	Mezzo Soprano	Her Cousins		
O Kayo San (Tears of Bliss)	Mezzo or Contralto	fer Cousins		
Chaya (Tea Server)	Mezzo Soprano	Her Servant		
Nora Twinn } Dora Twinn }	Mezzo Sopranos	{ Young American ladies travel- ling with their Governess		
Miss Minerva Knowall	Contralto	Governess		
*If desirable, The Mikado	of Japan may be introd	luced as an additional character		

(See page 62)

Chorus of Japanese Girls

Scene

A quaint garden; on one side a Jap house with veranda of bamboo canes, at the back a fence with gate. (See illustration on front cover.)

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The Japanese Girl. Operetta or Cantata for Ladies.

Libretto by TEANIE OUINTON ROSSE.

Music by CHARLES VINCENT. Mus. Doc. Oxon.

Nº 1. Overture.











The Overture may be omitted, if desired.

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(The work may begin with Nº 2 if desired.)

Scene. A quaint garden; on one side a Japanese house with verandah of bamboo canes, at the back a fence with gate.

Nº 2. Chorus.

Allegro moderato. = 128.

CURTAIN RISES. A group of Japanese girls carrying flowers and fruit etc. as presents for O Hanu San; they are led by O Kitu San and O Kayo San.







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Nº 3. Recit. and Air.

Thanks to you all.



Air. My Girlhood Days.





(spoken) Kitv. The sadness of your sweet strain has dimmed my eyes too, O Hanu San! May the day be far distant when we shall miss the sunshine of your presence!

HANU. That will be as my honoured father wills it! O Happy thought! That he is now on his way to me, and ere this glorious Sun has ceased to shed its light on this auspicious day, I shall behold his dear, dear face!

KAYO. Then must you banish every cloud from your brow. Your dear father lives but to bring a smile to the countenance of his only child.

HANU. Nay, that he loves me, I know full well, but a loyal soldier thinks first of his country, and then of his home. Truly 'tis a noble calling, and when the time comes, I will give my heart to none but a brave soldier like my father.

Nº 4. Trio.

The Soldier, the Poet, and the Artist.
O Hanu San, O Kitu San, O Kayo San.









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Kitv. Ah well! we must banish such thoughts now and get to work, for there is much to be done to prepare the decorations for our festival to-day. We intend to make Hanu's coming of age, a real joyous day, don't we girls?

ALL. We do indeed,

Kayo. Look here, fair cousin Kitu; would it not be better if, instead of talking about getting to work, you were to come and give us the benefit of your artistic taste in sorting and arranging this heap of flowers which we have brought to decorate the lantern cords.

Kitv. Right Kayo! but he not cross with me, for like the barber's mule, I can work better on hay than sticks; however, no more words; come girls, to work, to work, and while we weave the garlands, let us sing our flower song.

(During the singing of the following Chorus the girls seat themselves, and weave garlands of flowers, some make ropes of straw (shimenawa) others, tufts of colored paper and straw (gohei) bunches of fern leaves (urajiro) to hang on the ropes, from which the lanterns will be hung bye and bye. These are always extensively used at any Japanese festival. O Hanu San alone remains idle.)

Nº 5. Flower Chorus.*





(At the end of Chorus, Chaya enters from the house and bows low to O Hanu San.)

CHAYA. Greeting, most illustrious Mistress! Your servant has patiently looked for your coming in the Lasluki (dwelling room) for the Amacha (sweet tea) waits to be sweetened by the magic of your fair hands, and it is not well that you spend the day in idleness.

O HANU SAN. Patience! my dear, faithful Chaya! you are over-zealous on my account, in your anxiety that all be in order for our gathering to-night. The hours are many and the shadows will grow long, ere the rosy hues of sunset proclaim the approach of evening. Nevertheless, it is well to be prepared; so, fair cousins, let us to our duties in the house as Chaya suggests. Come, Kitu and Kayo, come!

(Exits Chorus in different directions, leaving flowers etc. on stage. Kitu and Kayo go into the house with O Hanu.)

Chaya. Patience! Patience indeed! I've so much to do, that I don't know which way to turn or what to do first; how I shall get through the day, I don't know.







Cnava. Here I am, wasting my time when I should be about. Oh dear me! What should I not be about? Whatever, whatever, whatever shall I do first?

(Chaya is going into the house, but hearing the chant of lamentation from within, she pauses and then returns, wringing her hands.)

No 7 Chant of Lamentation.

Sayonara.

To be sung by invisible chorus in the house, very softly, during the following dialogue. If necessary the chorus might be repeated.



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Chaya. (list'ning) The Sayonara! The Sayonara! What trouble has fallen upon us, on this day of all days! Ah me! Ah me! I must find out at once the cause for all the woe.

(O Hanu San enters from house weeping, followed by Kitu who carries a scroll, and Kayo earrying a caged hird. Chaya runs and embraces Hanu.)

CHAYA. Speak! Star of my heart! Say what sorrow has now befallen us.

HANU. Alas! Alas! Chaya my tongue is dumb with grief.

Chaya. Speak! O Kitu Sau. I implore thee, what sorrow has come to us?

Kitu. (pointing to scroll). Herein lies the poison that has blighted the heart of our sweet flower. 'Tis from her illustrious father, who says he must at once start for the seat of war in China, and cannot even visit his loved one first. Therefore he will not be present at our festivities this evening.

Chaya. Sad news indeed, indeed!

Kavo. (holds up cage). Grieve not so sorely, dear cousin! Has he not breathed his spirit into this pretty songster, and sent him to you as is the custom, until such time as our beloved shugo sama (emperor) shall spare him to return to those he loves.

CHAYA. It is well! Our drooping flower even now lifts up her head, her tears are but as the raindrops, which sparkle in the heart of a blossom refreshed by a passing shower. Speak, O Hanu, speak to thy bird and perhaps, maiko, (term of endearment) it may answer thee. Should it do so in joyous notes, our hearts will gladden indeed.

Nº 8. O Tori Kayo.

(The singing bird.)
O Hanu San.



(The bird music might be played on a piccolo.)



★ Should this song be found too long, the passage ★ to ★ (page 37) may be omitted.

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Kitu. It answers thee! It answers thee! List! How sweet the song.

KAYO. The omen is good. The spirit of thy dear father will in very truth be withus this evening and naught shall dim the joyousness of our ceremonial.

CHAYA. See the sun is at its zenith. The time for the mid-day siesta is at hand. Rest here thy weary head, sweet mistress, and may the angel of peace and consolation descend to thee in dreams. (a-side) I go to my humble nap within.

(Arranges O Hanu in a comfortable position in the shade, exit Chaya_the others fan O Hanu and arrange themselves in groups during the playing of symphony to No 9.

The Siesta. Nº 9. Lullaby.

Lento lusingando. J. = 56 pp σ. Ta. Ta). Ta. Ta. con espress. Ten. 200 Ded. Den. Tad. Ta Ted. Ted. Ted. Tad. Ted. Ted. Ten. Tad. Ted.

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Curtain should fall for a few minutes.

Act II.

Scene the same, but profusely decorated, and two high seats placed near centre.

Nº 10. Instrumental Introduction to Part II.

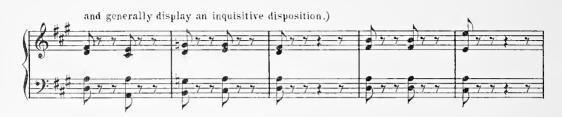
(During the introduction Nora and Dora, twin sisters, enter dressed very primly and exactly alike. Miss Knowall follows.)





(Enter Nora and Dora, - they look over fence at back, then to right and left, try the latch











(Miss Knowall enters and looks about.)





Nora. Oh! Miss Knowall here's such a pretty garden.

Dora. Such a pretty garden! Don't you think we might take one peep inside?

Nora. Just one peep inside?

Miss K. Well there does not appear to be any one about, (enters) so I think that in the pursuit of knowledge one is justified sometimes in putting etiquette on one side; but we will refer (looks at guide book) Manners and customs; garden_g, ga, (reads) "It is usual in the more remote districts;" now, where ever have those young ladies gone? (Re-enter Nora and Dora who had slipt away.)

Dora. See! Miss Knowall. Isn't that a remarkable flower?

Nora. A very remarkable flower!

Miss K. Well! Yes, I should think it is indigenous to the country, no doubt. We will refer_Flora, flora. F,l. Now young ladies, take out your note books and jot down its characteristics, while I make a rapid sketch. It may come in useful when I give my next lecture to the Hopsom-on-the marsh Horticultural Society.

Dona. (ponting) We didn't bring our note books, and we are tired of doing lessons all day long.

NORA. All day long. We do want a little recreation sometimes!

Miss K. Recreation sometimes!

Dora. Yes! Recreation sometimes!

Nº 11. Duet.

Nora and Dora.
We are not finished yet.



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Nº 12. Song. Miss Knowall.



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(During the singing of No 13 Nora and Dora slip away and go into the house.)

Miss Knowall. There now, they have again disappeared! What frivolous pupils I have. Before I go to seek them however, I must positively take a sketch of this quaint residence.

While she arranges her folding easel and seat, and during the following soliloquy, twenty measures of the symphony of the Lullaby N? 9 is to be played very softly.

How very peaceful it is! so soothing! I declare I feel quite drowsy (gradually falls asleep.)

Nº 13. Tip-toe Chorus.







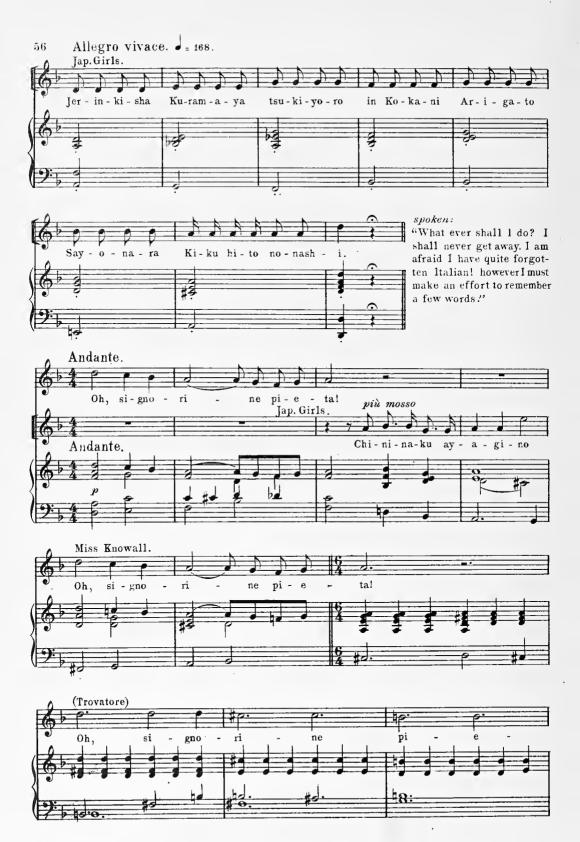
Nº 14. Solo and Chorns.

Miss Knowall and Jap. Girls.





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(O Hanu San comes running in; girls disperse.)

O Hanu San. What is the meaning of this disturbance? (sees Miss Knowall.) What can this mean? An English lady in distress! Madam, what can I do to assist you?

Miss Knowall. Ah! you speak English! If you would kindly ask these young ladies to allow me to depart. They seem to resent my presence here, and I am sure I apologize for my thoughtless conduct. I could not make them understand.

O Hanu San. Why, madam, they speak English too, the study of that language is now considered an indispensible part of a Japanese lady's education. Are you English?

Miss Knowall. English? By no means, I'm American, through and through.

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Nº 15. In praise of America.*

O Hanu San and Chorus.



* Name of any country may be substituted at pleasure, the last speech on page 57 being changed to correspond.

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(During the singing of the song Nora and Dora enter from house.)

Miss Knowall. Oh! my dears! where have you been?

Nora. Oh! we've been having a real good ripping time.

DORA. Such a ripping real good time, this lady (pointing to O Hanu San) has been kind enough to invite us into the house and has shown us all the preparations.

Nora. The preparations for a great ceremony which takes place this evening, when she celebrates her coming of age.

Miss Knowall. How extremely interesting! If we could_ I scarcely like_

Hasu. (smiling): If you would honor us with your distinguished presence it would add much to our pleasure, and I shall then he assured that you have forgiven the thoughtless jest of my friends.

(They bow their acknowledgments and thanks. A gong sounds.)

KITU. It is the evening hour and the ceremonies are about to commence.

(Chaya enters carrying a low stool on which O Hanu seats berself; as the song proceeds the various things alluded to are brought forward by four of the girls and handed to Kitu.

Nº 16. Carmine lips.

Kitu with Chorus.



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While the song and chorns is being sung and acted, some should busy themselves by bringing in lighted lanterns which they hang up. At the conclusion of the song, O Hanu moves to one side, attended by 6 or 8 companions. Some exit into house, returning with lanterns swinging on poles. Chaya brings forward to centre of stage a small table. Kitu places on it a portrait of the Mikado, Kayo places flowers before it. The Japanese colors are displayed and O Hann San comes forward and salates the portrait, by howing till her head touches the table. The others, who have not lanterns, follow two or three at a time and do likewise. During this ceremony all sing the Japanese National Anthem.

N.B. Instead of introducing a portrait of the Mikado, a good effect is made by Chaya rushing in in a perturbed state announcing an unexpected visit from the Mikado himself. The Mikado enters, followed by two or four little boys, a seat is placed for him and the national anthem is sung. He stays to the end.



Nº 17. Japanese National Anthem.

(At the conclusion of the national anthem which may be repeated two or three times if necessary, O Hanu San takes one of the high seats and Miss Knowall is conducted to the other, while the dance is performed.)

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Nº 18. Japanese Dance.









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Nº 19. Finale.

Procession of Lanterns and Final Chorus.

Chaya goes first, carrying cage which she places on a raised seat in centre beside O Hanu San. During the following Chorus, Nora and Dora take off their bracelets, and give them to Hanu. Miss Knowall presents her with a large book on which the words "English Grammar" are printed in conspicuous letters. The procession and movements of the chorus may be as elaborate or as simple as circumstances permit.





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