

Takai-Yama

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Traditional Japanese Song



"Takai-Yama" provides the melody for the aria "Suzuki's Prayer" in Giacomo Puccini's "Madama Butterfly", Act II, rehearsal number 3.

The tune is quoted in Powils-Okano, Kimiyo, Puccini's "Madama Butterfly", Verlag für systematische Musikwissenschaft GmbH, Bonn, 1986 (in German). According to Powils-Okano, the words of the song are something like this:

"As I gaze from the high mountain
Into the valley below
(Look now!)
Cucumbers and eggplants are at their peak of blossoming."

The source for the above transcription of "Takai-Yama" is the book

"Seiyo gakufu Nihon zokkyokushu" by Iwai Nagai and Kenhachiro Obata,
pub. Miki Shoten, Osaka, 1895 (in Japanese).

Transcribed into Finale music notation by Tom Potter, 2006.