

# Akatonbo

## (Red Dragonfly)

For 2-Part and Piano\*\*

Duration: ca. 2:23

Traditional Japanese Folk Song  
Original Music and Arrangement by  
GREG GILPIN

Gently, softly (♩ = 84)

Piano

The piano introduction consists of two staves. The right hand plays a series of chords and eighth notes in a 3/4 time signature, while the left hand provides a simple harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

5 Part I *p*

\*Yu - ya - ke ko - ya - ke - no a - ka - to - n - bo.

The first system of the vocal part begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The melody is simple and melodic. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and eighth notes.

O - wa - re - te mi - ta - no - wa - i - tsu - no - hi - ka?

The second system of the vocal part continues the melody. The piano accompaniment remains consistent with the first system.

\*Pure Latin vowels are used to sing the Japanese text. The “n” of “Akatonbo” should be sung with closed lips.

\*\*Available separately: 2-Part (00367967)

[halleonard.com/choral](http://halleonard.com/choral)

Visit [sheetmusicdirect.com](http://sheetmusicdirect.com) to purchase and download digital choral scores and audio (MP3s) including part-dominant tracks for selected chorals.

**DO NOT  
PHOTOCOPY**



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13

Ya - ma - no ha - ta - ke - no ku - wa - no - mi - o.

13

Ko - ka - go - ni tsu - n - da - way\_\_ ma - bo - ro - shi - ka?

17

21

24 Part II

*p*

Red drag - on - fly, as red as the sun - set,

24

red drag - on - fly, in the twi - light sky, I'd ride.

28

Detailed description: This system contains measures 28 through 31. It features a vocal line in a soprano clef and a piano accompaniment in a grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: "red drag - on - fly, in the twi - light sky, I'd ride." The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a simple bass line in the left hand.

32

Red drag - on - fly, as red as the sun - set,

32

Detailed description: This system contains measures 32 through 35. It features a vocal line in a soprano clef and a piano accompaniment in a grand staff. A measure rest for 32 measures is indicated at the beginning of the system. The lyrics are: "Red drag - on - fly, as red as the sun - set,". The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line.

red drag - on - fly, when the day is done.

36

Detailed description: This system contains measures 36 through 39. It features a vocal line in a soprano clef and a piano accompaniment in a grand staff. The lyrics are: "red drag - on - fly, when the day is done." The piano accompaniment includes a fermata over the final chord in measure 39.

40

Detailed description: This system contains measures 40 through 42. It features a vocal line in a soprano clef and a piano accompaniment in a grand staff. The vocal line has three whole rests. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line.

43

## Part I

*p*

\*Yu - ya - ke ko-ya - ke - no a - ka - to - n - bo.

## Part II

*p*

Red drag - on - fly, as red as the sun - set,

43

O - wa - re - te mi - ta - no - wa — i - tsu - no - hi - ka?

red drag - on - fly, in the twi - light sky, I'd ride.

47

51

Ya - ma - no ha - ta - ke - no ku - wa - no - mi - o.

Red drag - on - fly, as red as the sun - set,

51

Ko-ka-go - ni tsu - n - da - way\_ ma - bo - ro - shi - ka?  
red drag - on - fly, when the day is done.

55

62  
Yu - ya - ke  
Yu - ya - ke

59

*rit.*  
ko - ya - ke - no a - ka - to - n - bo.  
ko - ya - ke - no a - ka - to - n - bo.

*rit.*  
*rit.*

63

# Rehearsal Suggestions for “Akatonbo” (Red Dragonfly)

Look up this text online and discuss the many verses and what the poet is describing.

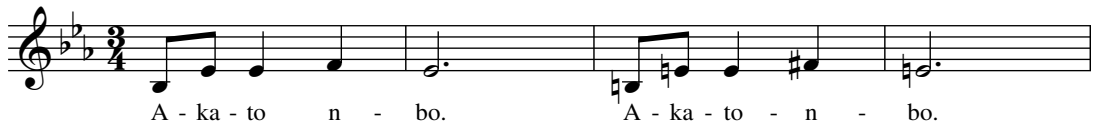
- What does it make you think of in your own life?
- Are there moments like this you’ve seen where you live?
- Do you think this is a real moment in the poet’s life or his imagination?

Pure Latin vowels are used in singing the Japanese text. Sing the Japanese verse without consonants and only the vowels in each syllable, working on shaping and unifying each open vowel.

Now add the consonants, keeping the open vowels you have developed.

All sing Part II melody (English verse) on an Oo vowel as a warm-up. Try singing it again with different open vowels before adding English text.

Try using this warm-up to learn how to sing the closed “n” of “Akatonbo”. Then apply to the actual melody in the song.



Musical notation for the first line of the song. The melody is in 3/4 time, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The notes are: quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4, quarter note F4, quarter note E4, quarter note D4, quarter note C4. The lyrics are: A - ka - to n - bo. A - ka - to - n - bo.



Musical notation for the second line of the song. The melody is in 3/4 time, starting with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The notes are: quarter note G4, quarter note A4, quarter note B4, quarter note C5, quarter note B4, quarter note A4, quarter note G4, quarter note F4, quarter note E4, quarter note D4, quarter note C4. The lyrics are: A - ka - to - n - bo. A - ka - to - n - bo.