

NATSU KUSA (SUMMER GRASS), Flynn  
SBMP 1786

**SATB**  
piano, cello

Luke Flynn

# Natsu Kusa

(Summer Grass)

夏  
草



Santa Barbara Music Publishing, Inc.

[sbmp.com](http://sbmp.com)

# Natsu Kusa

このころの恋の繁けく夏草の刈り掃へども生ひしくごとし

Recently I have been	kono koro no
So much in love, like	koi no shigekeku
Summer grass:	natsu kusa no
Reaped and swept away, yet	kari harae domo
Growing back.	oishiku gotoshi

– Japanese Manyoshu 万葉集 Volume 10-1984 (c.759 AD)

## About the piece

Set to an ancient Japanese *waka* (a poem written in 5-7-5-7-7 syllable meter), “Natsu Kusa” captures the introspective and melancholic nature of the traditional Japanese view of the changing of seasons, while still personifying the elation and revitalization the poet is feeling.

Using tonality to reflect the poet’s description of their previous hurt being “swept away,” the line “kari harae domo” is first presented with a slight modulation, favoring a minor tonal center, with a bit of dissonance between voices. As the music progresses, these lines are then repeated and centered in the original, major key of the piece. This allows us to feel the same excitement and positivity as the poet, as they reflect on their new, limitless bounds of love like “summer grass” growing back endlessly.

## IPA Transcription

kono koro no  
[kɔ̃ nɔ̃ kɔ̃ ɾɔ̃ nɔ̃]

koi\* no shigekeku  
[kɔ̃ i nɔ̃ ʃi ge ke ku]

natsu kusa no  
[na tsu ku sa nɔ̃]

kari harae\* domo  
[ka ri ha ra e dɔ̃ mɔ̃]

oishiku\* gotoshi  
[ɔ̃ i ʃi ku gɔ̃ tɔ̃ ʃi]

## Phonetic Pronunciation

kono koro no  
[koh noh koh roh noh]

koi\* no shigekeku  
[koh ee noh shee ge ke koo]

natsu kusa no  
[nah tsoo koo sah noh]

kari harae\* domo  
[kah ree hah rah e doh moh]

oishiku\* gotoshi  
[oh ee shee koo goh toh shee]

\*While technically there is an extra “h” in the phrases “koi” (koi), “harae” (harahe), and “oishiku” (ohishiku), this “h” is not pronounced when spoken. To more accurately capture the Japanese vernacular, it has been omitted, and should be pronounced as written.

## Ranges



cello part, recording and rehearsal tracks  
available at [sbmp.com](http://sbmp.com)

# Natsu Kusa

Text from Manyoshu  
(c. 759 AD)

(Summer Grass)

Music by  
Luke Flynn

**Rubato** ♩ = c. 60-64

Cello *mp espr.* *poco port.*

Piano *mp* *dolce e leggiero* *ped. molto*

3 *rall.* *p* *mf*

6 *mp* **A** *poco meno mosso*

S *mp* ko - no ko - ro no

A *mp* ko - ro no

T *mp* ko - no ko - ro no

B *mp* ko - no ko - ro no

*poco*

It is illegal to duplicate this piece by photocopying or any other means.  
Those violating the copyright will be punished to the full extent of the law.

© Copyright 2024 for ALL COUNTRIES by Santa Barbara Music Publishing, Inc.

Printed in the U.S.A.

9 *poco a poco cresc.*

ko - i ko - i ko -

*poco a poco cresc.*

ko - i ko - i

*poco a poco cresc.*

ko - i ko -

ko - i ko -

*p poco a poco cresc.*

*poco a poco cresc.*

11 *molto rit.* *poco più mosso* ♩ = 62

*mf*

i shi - ge - ke - ku na - tsu

*mf*

ko - i shi - ge - ke - ku na - tsu

*mf*

i shi - ge - ke - ku na - tsu

*mf*

- i shi - ge - ke - ku na i - tsu na -

*mf*

*mf legato*

13

na - tsu ku - sa no ka - ri

na - tsu ku - sa no ka - ri

na - tsu ku - sa no ka - ri

tsu na - tsu ku - sa no ka - ri

15

This section of the score is not included for copyright protection.  
 © Copyright 2022 for ALL COUNTRIES by Santa Barbara Music Publishing, Inc.

*mp*

*poco*

8va

*poco*

17 rit.

e do - mo

e do - mo

e do - mo

do - mo

*loco*

*freely*

3

C Tempo I° ♩ = c. 60-64

20

*p poco a poco cresc.*

*8va*

*mp*

22

22

*poco a poco cresc.*

(8va)

24 *rall.*

24 *rall.*

*mp*

ko - - -

*mp*

ko - - -

*mp*

ko - - -

*mp*

ko - - -

ko - - -

*loco*

(8va)

**D** poco meno mosso ♩ = 58

26

*mf*

no ko - ro no

*mf*

no ko - ro no

*mf*

no ko - ro no

*mf*

no ko - ro no

*mf*

*mf*

28

*poco a poco cresc.*

ko - i ko -

*poco a poco cresc.*

ko i ko i

*poco a poco cresc.*

ko i ko -

*poco a poco cresc.*

ko - i ko - i ko -

*poco a poco cresc.*

*poco a poco cresc.*



*molto rit.*

**E** poco più mosso ♩ = 62

30

*f*

i shi - ge - ke - ku na - tsu

*f*

ko - i shi - ge - ke - ku na - tsu

*f*

i shi - ge - ke - ku na - tsu

*f*

- i shi - ge - ke - ku na - tsu na -

*f*

*f*

*mf* *legato*

32

na - tsu ku - sa no ka - - - ri

na - tsu ku - sa no ka - - - ri

na - tsu ku - sa no ka - - - ri

tsu na - tsu ku - sa no ka - - - ri

This section of the score is not included for copyright protection.  
 © Copyright 2024 for ALL COUNTRIES by Santa Barbara Music Publishing, Inc.

34

ha - ra - e do - mo do - mo

ha - ra - e do - mo do - mo

ha - ra - e do - mo do - mo

ha - ra - e do - mo do - mo

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mf*

*mp*

*freely (not strict)*

11

36

na - tsu na - tsu ku - sa no

na - tsu na - tsu ku - sa no

na - tsu na - tsu ku - sa no

na - tsu na - tsu ku - sa no

na - tsu na - tsu ku - sa no

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*f*

*mf*

3

38 *ff* **molto rit.**

ka - ri ha - ra - e do - mo

ka - ri ha - ra - e do - mo

ka - ri ha - ra - e do - mo

ka - ri ha - ra - e do - mo

*ff*

*f*

*ped.*

41 **Slow, freely** *mp* **tempo** **rit. al fine**

o - i - shi - ku go to - shi.

go - to - shi.

go - to - shi.

go - to - shi.

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mp*

*mf*

*p*

*(ped. ord)*



## About the composer

Luke Flynn (b. 1988) is a composer, arranger, and conductor with a highly active career in film, television, and the concert hall.

In the media industry, Flynn's Hollywood music department credits include over 100 of the biggest movies and television series of his lifetime, including *Avatar 2: The Way of Water*, *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, *Frozen II*, and many others.

As a concert composer, his works are performed regularly throughout the world, including commissions and performances by major symphony orchestras, choirs, and ensembles in over 20 different countries as well as throughout the U.S. He is also an active guest lecturer and conductor, visiting professional ensembles, universities, and high schools around the globe.

Flynn is a graduate of Butler University, Clarke University, and The International University of Kagoshima in Japan. His primary composition mentors include Michael Schelle, Amy Dunker, and Tadashi Kubo.

He resides in Iowa with his wife and daughter, where he conducts all of his work from his studio.

SBMP 1786 Code: C12



7 85147 86916 0

DO NOT  
PHOTOCOPY

