

# Japan

## "Kimigayo"

♩ = 68

Yoshiisa Oku and Akimori Hayashi 1880

Ki - mi ga\_\_\_\_ yo\_\_\_\_ wa, chi - yo ni\_\_\_\_ ya - chi - yo ni Sa - za - re

6

i - shi no, I - wa - o to na - ri - te, Ko - ke no mu\_\_\_\_ su\_\_\_\_ ma\_\_\_\_ de.

### English translation:

*May the reign of the Emperor  
continue for a thousand, nay, eight thousand generations  
and for the eternity that it takes  
for small pebbles to grow into a great rock  
and become covered with moss.*

*(Anonymous 10th century poem)*

***In 1869, John William Fenton, a visiting Irish military band leader realising that Japan had no national anthem suggested the idea to a Japanese nobleman.***

***Fenton was asked to put music to an ancient poem, "Wa ga Kimi wa".***

***In 1880, the Imperial Household Agency adopted a new melody composed by Yoshiisa Oku and Akimori Hayashi, which, with slight changes is the one still in use today.***

***Please notice that geologists now understand that big rocks become smaller rocks over time and not the other way around as was believed a thousand years ago.***