

## Like a Water-Buffalo (1985)

Written for Mie Miki who wanted to have music of heart for her instrument. The Melody is from a song I composed for my small band “Suigyū (water buffalo)” during early 1980s:

“The song is born from the people’s sorrow. Singers may not last, but the song ploughs on like a water buffalo...”

**Yuji Takahashi**

Words are born of the people’s fears  
Music grows from the people’s tears  
The sound of freedom I can’t define  
But when I hear it, I know it’s mine.

Our brothers’ freedom is torn away  
Our sister’s sorrow is every day  
Our hands reach out to them  
Though love is strong, we cannot touch them  
So we sing their song.

A song is a question and a memory  
There is not limit to what a song can be  
The memory’s meaning depends on you  
The question’s answer is what you do.

Singing a song together, walking down the road,  
We don’t have long, we are hot and cold, Stop and go.  
But the song plays on -  
Like a water-buffalo.

For MIE MIKI

Yuji TAKAHASHI  
高橋 悠治

LIKE A WATER-BUFFALO

- 1985 -

水牛のうた

[A] ix 2x

M11

M31 (2x ONLY)

[B] b b b kaden

(b) sf p

(b) sf p

(b) sf p

(b) sf p

**C**

Handwritten musical notation for section C, measures 1-4. The notation includes a treble staff and a bass staff. The first measure is marked with a circled 'C'. The music features complex rhythmic patterns, including triplets and slurs. A circled '2x ONLY' annotation is present above the second measure.

Handwritten musical notation for section C, measures 5-8. The notation continues the rhythmic patterns from the previous section, featuring various note values and slurs.

Handwritten musical notation for section C, measures 9-12. The notation shows a continuation of the musical piece with similar rhythmic complexity.

*in Tempo* →

Handwritten musical notation for section C, measures 13-16. It includes a double bar line and a circled '5' annotation.

**D**

Handwritten musical notation for section D, measures 1-2. It features a treble and bass staff with a circled 'D' and an arrow pointing to 'V.S.'.

(1x) (2x)

PLAY 3X'S

A2 1x 2x 3x  
(⊖) (⊖) (⊖)

Handwritten musical notation for system 1, measures 1-4. Treble clef, key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The bass line includes a circled minus sign with "(2x ONLY)" written next to it.

Handwritten musical notation for system 2, measures 5-8. Treble clef, key signature of one flat (Bb). A double bar line is present at the end of measure 8, with a "2" written below it.

Handwritten musical notation for system 3, measures 9-12. Treble clef, key signature of one flat (Bb). Chord diagrams for E major (1x) and E minor (2x) are shown above the staff.

Handwritten musical notation for system 4, measures 13-16. Treble clef, key signature of one flat (Bb). First and second endings are indicated with "1." and "2." above the staff.

Handwritten musical notation for system 5, measures 17-20. Treble clef, key signature of one flat (Bb). Chord diagrams for F major (⊖) and F minor (⊖) are shown above the staff.

Handwritten musical notation for system 6, measures 21-24. Treble clef, key signature of one flat (Bb). Chord diagrams for F major (⊕) and F minor (⊖) are shown above the staff. An arrow points to the end of the system with the text "v.s."

G (1x⊕) 2x⊕

(1x⊕) 2x⊕

(⊕)

(⊕)

H

B2

The image shows three systems of handwritten musical notation on five-line staves. The first system consists of two staves with a double bar line. The upper staff contains a melodic line with notes and rests, and a dynamic marking of *sf p* below it. The lower staff contains a bass line with notes and rests. The second system also has two staves. The upper staff begins with a circled label **(A3)** and a circled symbol containing a minus sign. It features a melodic line with notes and rests, and a dynamic marking of *p* below it. The lower staff contains a bass line with notes and rests, including a circled symbol with a minus sign and several plus signs above notes. The third system consists of two staves with a double bar line. The upper staff contains a melodic line with notes and rests. The lower staff contains a bass line with notes and rests, including a circled symbol with a minus sign and several plus signs above notes.