

Japanese Culture Now

世界に一つだけの花：人々の心をつかんだ2003年最大のヒット曲

One and Only Flower in the World: The Biggest Hit Song to Capture People's Hearts in 2003

According to a minute-by-minute audience rating carried out by Video Research, Inc. for the Kanto area (the region around Tokyo) of the 54th annual NHK Red vs. White Singing Contest, broadcast nationwide on New Year's Eve 2003, the group SMAP recorded the highest audience rating of any moment in the program at 57.1 percent—by far the highest viewer rating of all the singers who performed. The nation's well-known singers appeared at this very popular event in which they are divided between male and female singers, and SMAP performed this song in the coveted final spot on the program.

Just before singing their smash hit, *Sekai ni hitotsu dake no hana* [One and Only Flower in the World], which has sold over two million copies, the members of SMAP offered the following passionate appeal for world peace: "Everyone please close your eyes and think back over the year 2003. This year, too, many precious lives were lost around the world. And many things

hideous to behold took place. What can each of us do in such times? We believe that a happy future awaits us all if we can all learn to be kind to one another."

The line in this song that runs, "You don't have to be Number 1—You've always been the one and only one," has lent courage to many people, adults and children alike, this year. Undoubtedly that is because people have a desire to accept themselves as they are, to respect themselves, and to live with respect for others as well.

The following website is useful for finding the lyrics to popular Japanese songs. The site is free of charge, but users are required to register.
 ⇨ Uta-Net (<http://www.uta-net.com/>)

If you would like to obtain CDs by Japanese vocal artists, please check the following sites.
 ⇨ Amazon (<http://www.amazon.co.jp/>)
 ⇨ Fujisan (<http://www.fujisan.com/>)

Data ■ Total Sales Rankings: CD Singles

(Oricon Survey 1/13/2003-12/29/2003)

Rank	Song Title	Artist	Albums Sold (units of 10,000)
1	<i>Sekai ni hitotsu dake no hana</i> [One and Only Flower in the World]	SMAP	214
2	<i>Niji</i> [Rainbow]	Fukuyama Masaharu	91
3	Colors	Utada Hikaru	88
4	<i>Sakura</i> [Cherry Blossom]	Moriyama Naotaru	81
5	<i>Tsuki no shizuku</i> [Moon Dew]	RUI (Shibasaki Kou)	78

世界に一つだけの花 One and Only Flower in the World

作詞・作曲 / 梶原敬之 Lyrics and Music Composed by Makihara Noriyuki

JASRAC 出 0400629-401

花屋の店先に並んだ いろんな花を見ていた
 ひとそれぞれ好みはあるけど どれもみんなきれいだね
 この中で誰が一番だなんて 争うこともしないで
 バケツの中誇らしげに しゃんと胸を張っている

I was looking at the flowers lined up in front of the florists
 We all have our favorite perhaps, but aren't they all beautiful?
 Never vying with each other over which is the best
 They all stand tall and proud in their buckets
 Why are we human beings always trying so hard to compare ourselves?
 Trying so hard to be number 1 even though we're each unique and different?

それなのに僕ら人間は どうしても比べたがる？
 一人一人違うのにその中で 一番になりたがる？

It's true—we are each the one and only flower in the world
 Each of us holds the seed of something different
 It is enough to give everything we have
 To bring that flower into bloom

そうさ 僕らは 世界に一つだけの花
 一人一人違う種を持つ
 その花を咲かせることだけに
 一生懸命になればいい

Smiling with indecision, one customer hesitated a long while
 She couldn't help it, I'm sure—any flower that struggles into bloom is beautiful
 When she finally came out of the shop, she held in her arms
 A bouquet of every color, her face beaming with delight

困ったように笑いながら ずっと迷ってる人がいる
 頑張って咲いた花はどれも きれいだから仕方ないね
 やっと店から出てきた その人が抱えていた
 色とりどりの花束と うれしそうな横顔

I did not even know her name, but she smiled at me that day
 Like a flower blooming in some forgotten corner

名前も知らなかったけれど あの日に笑顔くれた
 誰も気づかないような場所で 咲いていた花のように

そうさ 僕らも 世界に一つだけの花
 一人一人違う種を持つ
 その花を咲かせることだけに
 一生懸命になればいい

It's true—we are each the one and only flower in the world
 Each of us holds the seed of something different
 It is enough to give everything we have
 To bring that flower into bloom

小さい花や大きな花
 一つとして同じものはないから

Small flowers and big flowers
 Not one is identical to another
 So, you don't have to be Number 1
 You've always been the one and only one

NO.1にならなくてもいい
 もともと特別なOnly one