

# 葵上

## VocalOID™ Opera Aoi with Bunraku Puppets

This song is mine alone.

It's a 30 minute-length opera film, in which you will see no human being acting. It's VOCALOID that provides all the songs for the play. VOCALOID is a technology of singing voice synthesis and the name of application software based on that technology. And all the actresses in the play are Bunraku puppets. Bunraku is one of Japan's traditional performing arts with 300 years of history. The trinity of lifelike puppet play, songs from VOCALOID and techno music using Japanese traditional musical instruments illustrates the complexity of human deep psyche.

### About Screening and DVD Sales etc...

Official Site : [www.opera-aoi.com](http://www.opera-aoi.com)

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- In Association with :  
**Yamaha Corporation, Blackmagic Design, KYOEISHA Co.Ltd**
- Supported by : **AHS Co.Ltd.** (<http://www.ah-soft.com>)
- Title lettering : **Takako Imatani**



## Story

This story is a contemporary arrangement of the chapter "Aoi" from the famous work of Japanese literature "Genji Monogatari," sometimes called the world's first novel. In the original, Aoi, the wife of Prince Hikaru, is possessed by the vengeful spirit of his former lover, and a priest is called to perform prayers and an exorcism.

Vocaloid Opera AOI begins with a manager waking from a dream and thinking back about Midori, a forgotten voice synthesis software, Hikaru, a composer who grew famous thanks to Midori's songs, and Aoi, who became a singer because of her adoration for Midori. Together, Aoi and Hikaru rose to stardom.

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One day, Aoi does not show up to a recording session. Her manager receives a phone call that someone resembling her has been in a traffic accident, and runs to the hospital. Aoi is there, and while she's uninjured, she will not wake up. A psychiatrist points out a broken CD and sheet music Aoi was holding, and both are for "Jikushu," the song she was to record. When the psychologist happens to hum the sheet music, Aoi rises, calls herself Midori, describes her grudge, then loses consciousness.



"Jikushu," a song based on a Buddhist mantra recited in prayer toward Fudō-myōō, was originally written for Midori. The manager then explains how Aoi once quarreled with Hikaru after refusing to record that song. The psychiatrist realizes that Hikaru was the one who broke the CD. If he has Aoi, he has no need for Midori, but this fact caused distress for Aoi, who loved both Hikaru and Midori.



The manager receives a music file for "Jikushu" from Hikaru, and plays it on a smartphone. This causes Aoi to wake once more, sing along with Midori's song in Midori's voice, and scream her forgotten laments. She removes her clothes and attacks them in a display of her inner turmoil. Finally, she summons the flames of Fudō-myōō's dragon and attempts to cleanse her soul with its fire.

The next day, Aoi wakes without any memories of what happened. What caused her to sing in that voice? Had she been possessed by Midori? Or was it a case of multiple personality disorder?

## What is VOCALOID?

VOCALOID is a technology for singing voice synthesis developed by Yamaha, and the name of application software based on it. VOCALOIDs are capable of singing both like humans and in ways impossible for humans.

## What is Bunraku puppet?

Bunraku is one of Japan's representative traditional performing arts, designated a World Intangible Heritage by UNESCO in 2003. It is a trinity of narrative recitation (Tayu), shamisen (shamisen; three-stringed Japanese musical instrument) music and Bunraku puppet in performance.

Details: <http://www.bunraku.or.jp/about/pdf/english.pdf>

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