

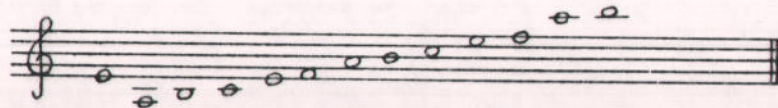
strings. This can be said to be a characteristic of the koto.

- * Composition: The composition "Akikaze no Kyoku" is said to have been written by Mitsuzaki Kengyo during the years 1830 to 1843. The first part of the work is a simple instrumental solo without vocal, while the second part consists of a vocalized section borrowing from the ancient vocal recitation forms.

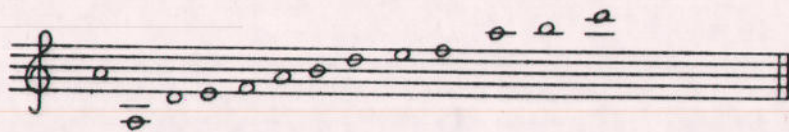
The contents of the song is taken from an ancient epic poem on the tragic end of Empress Yang Kui Fei of ancient China and the first part serves as an instrumental introduction to the song.

The tuning of the koto for this composition is set differently from the ordinary tuning. Thus:

Standard tuning of koto (Hirajoshi)



Tuning for composition "Akikaze no Kyoku"



When this work was composed by Mitsuzaki Kengyo nearly two centuries had already elapsed since the most early known compositions for the koto were written like "Rokudan no Shirabe" or "Kumiuta". While in this ensuing period the techniques of koto playing had made much progress, the composer tried to stress a revival of the ancient art of koto