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Japan Screen Topics

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TOKYO IN BLOOM

97 feet 2 min. 42 sec.

1. (BLOSSOMS) Spring -- the season of cherry blossoms. It's a time for girls to deck themselves out in their best kimono.

2. (TEA CEREMONY) It's also a time for parties under the cherry trees... like this age-old tea ceremony held in a villa in a Tokyo park.

And it's a time for relaxation after the long, cold winter... and for the renewal of the spirit in the warm colors of spring.

3. (BAND) At Shinjuku Gyoen National Gardens, invited guests are greeted by Prime Minister Takeo Fukuda and his wife at the Prime Minister's annual cherry blossom party. Besides the representatives of foreign countries, the crowd includes leaders of Japan's political, business and cultural worlds. The park containing 1,800 cherry trees was once the estate of a nobleman. (Receiving Line) Mr. Fukuda and his wife, Mitsue, personally greet most of the 5,200 guests.

4. (SAKE) A sip of sake is a tradition at all cherry blossom parties and the Prime Minister's is no exception.

ART OUTDOORS

NEWS

95 feet 2 min. 38 sec.

1. (STATUES) An hour and a half's drive from Tokyo is the Hakone Open Air Museum, an outdoor art gallery displaying a wide range of modern sculpture by noted Japanese and foreign artists.

2. (HAND) "The Hand of God," a bronze by Carl Milles.

(EARS) "Ear 1, 2, 3" is what Japanese artist Tomio Miki called this work in stainless steel.

The 30,000-square-meter outdoor art gallery is the first of its kind in Japan.

(LEG) "Reclining Figure Arch and Leg," by Henry Moore.

The museum sponsors say it is designed for a new era in which sculpture is becoming more of an outdoor art.

(ROUND TOWER) "Symphonic Sculpture," a work in stained glass, by Nobutaka Shikanai and Gabriele-Loirre.

3. ("CANNON") Swiss sculptor Bernhard Luginbuhl calls this work in steel "A Cannon Brought Out to Shoot a Sparrow."

(FOUR RINGS) "Four Moving Rings" is by Takamichi Ito.

4. (SQUATTING FIGURE) "Nozomi," or -- "hope," by Takashi Shimizu.

(STICKS) Another Ito piece--"Sixteen Turning Sticks."

(WALL) An aluminum frieze by Taimu Tatehata, dubbed "Working People."

MUSIC EN MASSE

120 feet 3 min. 20 sec.

1. (KOTO PLAYERS) Three thousand young students of musical instruments ranging from the koto... the Japanese harp... to the violin join in a mass recital. It's the 1977 "Talent Education All Japan Concert" held at Tokyo's Budokan Auditorium. In recent years, early musical training has been emphasized, especially with the violin.

The young violinists and koto players join in the Japanese composition, "Sea of Spring."

2. (TEACHER AND CHILD) The idea that children should start with their violins as early as three was pioneered in Japan about 30 years ago by Shinichi Suzuki. Today about 300 studios in Japan teach the violin to 11,000 children by the Suzuki method. The idea has spread to North America where it is claimed around 100,000 youngsters now are being taught under this method.

3. (BUDOKAN) The mammoth recital has become an annual affair. Crown Prince Akihito and Crown Princess Michiko, both enthusiastic music lovers, watch and listen to a performance of "The Two Grenadiers" by Robert Schumann. Ninety percent of the children are under 12 years of age.