

E14 - A Step Forward

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[00:01] ---

Hozuki!

[00:10] ---

We aren't together!

[00:12] ---

No way... What should I do?

It's because he protected me!

[00:15] ---

I'd hate for it to end like this!

[00:19] ---

I'd absolutely hate it!

[00:22] ---

That's right.

[00:24] ---

What am I doing... not believing in
the decision I made until the end?!

[00:29] ---

It's okay.

[00:30] ---

The notes will definitely...
play where we want them to!

[00:34] ---

Wh-What is this?! They're playing
totally different than before!

[00:37] ---

I'm not alone anymore.

[00:40] ---

Don't you dare try and "match" our level, okay?

[00:44] ---

Just play with all you've got!

[00:46] ---

That's it. I'll lead in my own way.

[00:50] ---

Of course I will.

[00:52] ---

Once I found it, I couldn't *not* get involved...

[00:56] ---

...with the sound that sways
my heart so intensely.

[01:15] ---

What on earth... just happened?

[01:19] ---

"#14 A Step Forward"

[01:46] ---

Their performance got really good
halfway through, didn't it?

[01:50] ---

The audience is super excited.

[01:52] ---

I-It's okay! We can still
outdo them! Right, Mio?!

[02:03] ---

Mio...?

[02:06] ---

Mio is laughing out loud?!

[02:08] ---

I've never seen that before! How creepy!

[02:10] ---

Don't roll around in a place like this!
Hey, it's our turn next, you know!

[02:14] ---

President...

[02:17] ---

I can give my best performance ever today.

[02:23] ---

The first half and the second half...

[02:25] ---

It seemed as if they were played
by two different schools.

[02:28] ---

Then they showed their real
ability in the second half?

[02:32] ---

Their tone was quite different from
what I expected. It was profound...

[02:37] ---

You look happy, Ousuke.

[02:39] ---

What? I do?

[02:41] ---

Sen... Their performance was
kinda amazing, wasn't it?

[02:46] ---

Yeah...

[02:48] ---

Hey! Don't be so impressed, you stupid Haru!

[02:50] ---

Compared to us, they're nothing!

[02:53] ---

What? But--

[02:54] ---

Shut up!

[02:55] ---

My goodness... I feel like
I saw something very incredible.

[03:00] ---

They did a great job
recovering in the second half.

[03:03] ---

I feel like their performance lifted my spirits.

[03:06] ---

We were able to witness someone's growth.

[03:10] ---

We're lucky to hear a performance like this.

[03:13] ---

Their performance was great.

[03:17] ---

Chika did a good job... though he
worried me at the beginning.

[03:22] ---

Would you like to use this?

[03:23] ---

Thanks, Mom.

[03:25] ---

What?

[03:26] ---

Are you okay, Kazusa?

[03:30] ---

I'm not okay.

[03:32] ---

I can't accept a performance like that.

[03:40] ---

I'm sorry!

[03:43] ---

What?

[03:44] ---

Hey, what's going on?
What's up with you three?

[03:47] ---

Ah, well, Kudo was actually...

[03:54] ---

Since I've been having a bad case of diarrhea,

[03:57] ---

I couldn't focus and
dragged you down. I'm sorry.

[04:03] ---

I-I knew about it,
but I didn't tell you guys.

[04:05] ---

Same here.

[04:06] ---

Don't tell such an obvious lie.

[04:09] ---

M-Mr. Takinami!

[04:11] ---

What? A lie? What're you talking about?

[04:13] ---

--Ow!
--Whoa... It looks worse than earlier.

[04:15] ---

--Whoa... It looks worse than earlier.

[04:18] ---

Chika! Your hand...!

[04:19] ---

Oh, no! What happened?

[04:23] ---

Could it be from that time...?

[04:25] ---

He hurt himself in the restroom.

[04:28] ---

What?

[04:29] ---

Since he didn't look well,

[04:31] ---

I threw him into the restroom and
told him he didn't have to perform.

[04:35] ---

Then he snapped and hit the wall,
injuring his hand.

[04:38] ---

It was so lame that even I can
understand why he wanted to lie.

[04:42] ---

You bastard...!

[04:43] ---

Hm? Am I mistaken?

[04:46] ---

Y-You're not... mistaken.

[04:51] ---

Jeez... How lame!

[04:53] ---

That's our Chika!

[04:54] ---

You're so funny, Chika!

[04:56] ---

Stop playing around and
go get your hand treated.

[04:59] ---

I know already!

[05:01] ---

Now, you guys pack up the instruments.

[05:05] ---

Sorry. I got thirsty, so I'm going
to buy something to drink.

[05:08] ---

What? Ah... Sure.

[05:10] ---

Whoa... Hozuki sure can pack up fast.

[05:13] ---

K-Kurata...

[05:14] ---

Is Chika's injury really...?

[05:19] ---

Yeah, really, I hope it gets better soon.

[05:23] ---

When it does, let's play together again.

[05:28] ---

Yes.

[05:31] ---

"First-aid Station"

[05:33] ---

It'll require one month to heal.
Actually, it might take longer than that.

[05:37] ---

Huh?! One month?!

[05:39] ---

Why?! It's just a sprain, right?

[05:41] ---

Don't take it lightly. Because you overdid it,
it's gotten quite a bit worse.

[05:45] ---

Don't use that hand for a while.
Once the swelling is gone, start rehab.

[05:49] ---

Wh-What about the koto?

[05:51] ---

Don't play it, of course.

[05:53] ---

"Shock"

[05:54] ---

I'll heal it up in three days!

[05:56] ---

Good luck with that. Okay, you can go now.

[05:59] ---

Let's see... The one he's always drinking is...

[06:03] ---

"Strawberry Au Lait"

[06:08] ---

Are you looking for something?

[06:10] ---

What? U-Um... I-I'd like to buy the tasty strawberry snacks. All of them!

[06:19] ---

"Concession Stand"

[06:22] ---

Ah... Kud--

[06:24] ---

Hey you, wait!

[06:26] ---

Ugh!

[06:27] ---

What, you again?

[06:30] ---

What do you want?

[06:31] ---

I heard your performance.

What the heck was that?!

[06:35] ---

You were unorganized and terrible in the first half. I couldn't stand it.

[06:38] ---

It seemed that you recovered quite a bit in the second half,

[06:41] ---

but a piece is a piece when you play it from the start till the end!

[06:46] ---

I can't accept that kind of performance!

[06:49] ---

As I thought, you're not worthy

to play the koto with Satowa!

[06:56] ---

You're saying that again?

Today's performance was all my fault.

[07:00] ---

And, I've said this many times,

[07:02] ---

but Hozuki plays with us because she wants to.

[07:05] ---

It's not for you to decide.

[07:08] ---

Is that all? See ya.

[07:11] ---

It's you guys' fault!

[07:13] ---

Huh?

[07:14] ---

Satowa's performance today...

[07:19] ---

That's... That's not how
her performance should be!

[07:24] ---

Huh?

[07:25] ---

Those tones weren't hers!

[07:28] ---

They used to be sharper
and more honed before!

[07:31] ---

They sounded strong, noble, and always solid!

[07:35] ---

I admired her tones so much, but now,
they've been defiled by you!

[07:39] ---

Because she plays with
unskilled people like you guys,

[07:43] ---

Satowa's tones became halfhearted!
She's not as good as she was before!

[07:48] ---

If you stay in this puny club,
you'll only get worse.

[07:53] ---

Why...? Then does it mean that I
should be facing the koto like I used to?

[07:58] ---

Continuing to scream all by myself...?

[08:02] ---

Your koto... is like a weapon to me.

[08:07] ---

They've become gentle.

[08:11] ---

What?

[08:13] ---

It's not that they became halfhearted
or that she became a bad player.

[08:18] ---

It's just that her tones became gentler.

[08:21] ---

I like her current tones a lot more than

[08:24] ---

her tones when I first heard them.

[08:43] ---

I'm not asking you what you like.

[08:47] ---

You don't know anything about tones!

[08:52] ---

They've become gentle.

[08:55] ---

I already... know that. You don't have
to tell me 'cause I already know that!

[09:02] ---

From childhood, Satowa's tones
were enveloped by solitude in some way.

[09:07] ---

They were irresistibly beautiful.

[09:10] ---

They were so beautiful that they
made her unapproachable.

[09:13] ---

They were transcendent to me.

[09:17] ---

But I was wrong...

[09:19] ---

I've never heard her tones sound so gentle,
brilliant, fun, and happy before.

[09:27] ---

Tones like that...

[09:30] ---

...would never have been born
playing with me.

[09:35] ---

Damn. She just said whatever she wanted.

[09:38] ---

Whoa! You?! How long have you been here?

[09:42] ---

I've been here from the beginning.

[09:45] ---

What do *you* know about my tones?

[09:49] ---

What, you were listening?

Sorry, I only said what I thought.

[10:01] ---

Th...

[10:04] ---

Thank you.

[10:09] ---

Thank you.

[10:20] ---

Chika!

[10:22] ---

There you are!

[10:24] ---

This is for you!

[10:26] ---

Huh? Wha...?

[10:30] ---

Hey, Chika. Is your hand okay?

[10:33] ---

Hm? Wasn't Hozuki just here, too?

[10:35] ---

Ah! You went ahead and bought snacks already?! That's not fair! Give me some!

[10:42] ---

No way.

[10:43] ---

How stingy! Since when did you become so petty?!

[10:46] ---

Shut up.

[10:58] ---

That concludes all the performances by participating high schools.

[11:04] ---

My goodness... I never expected to see this many high-level performances.

[11:09] ---

I'm glad I was able to listen to them.

[11:12] ---

After hearing them, I started questioning if it was okay for us to give marks.

[11:18] ---

There's nothing we can do about it.

[11:20] ---

Since this is a competition, we have to decide the ranking no matter what.

[11:30] ---

Kudo...

[11:32] ---

Yeah.

[11:33] ---

"Stare..."

[11:34] ---

"Stare..."

Is the person behind us your friend?

[11:36] ---

"Stare..."

A total stranger.

[11:37] ---

Hey... What's your name?

[11:39] ---

Definitely no!

[11:41] ---

Then give me your contact info.

[11:42] ---

No!

[11:44] ---

Then can I come hang out with you at your place?

[11:48] ---

Four-eyes! Help me!

[11:49] ---

What?!

[11:51] ---

Your tones are... interesting.

[11:55] ---

Your tones, I can understand.

[11:58] ---

What?

[11:59] ---

I can see the accumulated training behind them.

[12:03] ---

They're refined, very beautiful tones.

[12:07] ---

But your tones are mysterious.

[12:10] ---

They're unrefined, but for some reason--

[12:12] ---

Hey, Mio! You wandered off again!

[12:15] ---

Everyone's sitting over there. Let's go.

[12:18] ---

No. You sit here, too, Uta.

[12:21] ---

Jeez...!

[12:23] ---

What does "unrefined" mean?

[12:25] ---

Well, we're now going to announce
the results of this competition.

[12:31] ---

Ahh... I'm so nervous.

I'm scared of hearing the results.

[12:34] ---

Stop it, Kota. I don't wanna
catch your nervousness!

[12:37] ---

Hmph! How pathetic! If you're a man,
you should remain calm!

[12:42] ---

You sure seem manly.

[12:44] ---

Shut up! You picking a fight?!

[12:46] ---

We heard many high-level,
memorable performances,

[12:51] ---

which made this competition an amazing one.

[12:54] ---

Judging was difficult, especially
the best performance award.

[12:58] ---

Well, enough with the introduction.

[13:02] ---

We'll now move onto announcing the results.

[13:09] ---

First, I'll announce the seven
schools out of all 33,

[13:12] ---

one from each prefecture, to receive
the award for outstanding performance.

[13:16] ---

Then, I'll announce the school that won
first place, the best performance award,

[13:19] ---

out of those seven.

[13:22] ---

The first outstanding performance award
is for Tokyo, which goes to...

[13:26] ---

...Meiryō High School.

[13:30] ---

Great.

[13:31] ---

Ousuke.

[13:33] ---

We did it!

[13:36] ---

Yep.

[13:37] ---

Next is for Ibaraki, which goes
to Eidai Fuzoku High School.

[13:43] ---

All rrrrrright!

[13:46] ---

Whooooa! Sen!

[13:49] ---

Did you hear that?!

This is the level of our ability!

[13:52] ---

Don't be so conceited just because you
have cute girl members!

[13:55] ---

S-Sen!

[13:58] ---

Stupid idiot. What an embarrassing guy.

[14:01] ---

--Oh, shoot... My heart is pounding
so hard that my body is swaying.

--For Tochigi, the award goes to
Ichihara Yamaoka High School.

[14:06] ---

I can't breathe...

[14:08] ---

--Ahh... I hope we get chosen.

--For Gunma, the award goes
to Kuriyama Daiichi High School.

[14:13] ---

Ahh... Oh boy, oh boy...

[14:14] ---

--For Saitama, the award goes

to Ezawa High School.

[14:16] ---

--It's nerve-racking, isn't it, Mio?

--For Saitama, the award goes
to Ezawa High School.

[14:18] ---

Not really.

[14:19] ---

We're not gonna lose.

I don't wanna lose... not to Tokise.

[14:24] ---

It'll be fine.

[14:26] ---

We'll win.

[14:28] ---

Fumi...

[14:31] ---

Of course we will.

[14:33] ---

And lastly, for Kanagawa.

[14:36] ---

I'm more nervous than when I'm by myself.

[14:40] ---

We did everything we could do!

[14:44] ---

The award goes to...

[14:50] ---

...Kanagawa Prefectural...

[14:53] ---

...Hakuto High School.

[15:00] ---

What?

[15:01] ---

We did it!

[15:04] ---

Haku... to...

[15:06] ---

"Tokise High School

Kanagawa Prefectural Hakuto High School"

What about the school going after us?

They're from Kanagawa.

[15:10] ---

They're the ones who played right after us!

[15:14] ---

We did it, Mio! We won the award!

[15:20] ---

Do you now feel like telling me your name?

[15:29] ---

We didn't get chosen...

[15:30] ---

Oh, you guys didn't get chosen? How lame...

[15:33] ---

Hey, Sen!

[15:36] ---

Sorry.

[15:40] ---

Well, it was a natural outcome.

[15:43] ---

With a mistake like that,
they can't win a competition.

[15:46] ---

Hakuto High School... It's the school
that performed right after Tokise...

[15:51] ---

Well, that's understandable...
given the kind of performance they gave.

[15:58] ---

What...? What just happened?

[16:02] ---

Hakuto? Who's that?

[16:05] ---

How could we lose
to an unknown school like that...?

[16:08] ---

And, as for the best performance award,
actually, it'll be awarded to two schools.

[16:14] ---

Meiryu High School from Tokyo

[16:18] ---

and Hakuto High School from Kanagawa.

[16:22] ---

I know this is unusual,
but both schools are equally excellent,

[16:26] ---

so we'd like to give the best
performance award to both schools.

[16:31] ---

No way! The best performance award?!

[16:33] ---

We did it!

[16:34] ---

The same level as us...

[16:37] ---

Well then, we'll start the award ceremony now.

[16:40] ---

--This can't be happening.

--Those who are receiving the award...

[16:43] ---

Himesaka has been in first place
all this time in Kanagawa.

[16:51] ---

Kazusa...

[17:12] ---

What's happening...?

[17:15] ---

The back of my throat feels uncomfortable.

[17:19] ---

Hard to breathe...

[17:22] ---

It feels damn hot inside my body...

[17:25] ---

...like it's burning.

[17:29] ---

Takaoka, are you gonna go talk to Chika
and the others before you leave?

[17:33] ---

Ah... No, I'll go home. They probably
don't want me to talk to them right now.

[17:37] ---

I don't think they mind.

[17:40] ---

But well, let's go home, then.
I'll take you home.

[17:43] ---

No, thank you. I'll be fine.

[17:45] ---

Oh, don't be so reserved.

[17:46] ---

No, really, I'm fine.

[17:47] ---

Let's go home, Haru. What're you doing?

[17:50] ---

Ah, well, I was wondering where they were.

[17:53] ---

You mean those guys from Tokise?

[17:55] ---

Y-Yeah. I thought I wanted to
make friends with them.

[17:59] ---

Huh?! Don't talk nonsense!

[18:02] ---

We'll see them again anyway...

[18:05] ---

...as long as we continue to play the koto.

[18:06] ---

Sen...

[18:08] ---

Enough about that!

We have to go home and practice!

[18:10] ---

We don't have the luxury to take a break!

[18:12] ---

Dammit! We couldn't even
be first place in Kanto

[18:15] ---

when we're aiming to be
number one in nationals...

[18:17] ---

We'll definitely be first place next time!

[18:21] ---

Do you feel a little calmer now?

[18:24] ---

I'm okay.

[18:31] ---

This will make us stronger.

[18:41] ---

Hey, Mio! Where're you going?!

[18:47] ---

Looks like things are getting
more and more interesting.

[18:58] ---

Guys...

[19:00] ---

As expected, it's not
so easy to place, is it?

[19:03] ---

Y-Yeah. I thought we worked very hard,
but we were too optimistic.

[19:09] ---

I should've... I should've practiced
a lot harder than I did.

[19:13] ---

We were talking about nationals
when we're at this level...

[19:16] ---

I feel very embarra--

[19:18] ---

It's not embarrassing!

It's not embarrassing at all!

[19:23] ---

It's true that today's result wasn't
what we wanted,

[19:27] ---

but we performed the best we could at the time.

[19:30] ---

There's definitely no need
to be so hard on ourselves!

[19:34] ---

Takezo...

[19:37] ---

It's not working... My words aren't enough.

[19:41] ---

I mean every single word, but...

[19:44] ---

...since I play the koto with them,
my words aren't...

[19:47] ---

Stop looking so dejected.

[19:51] ---

Mr. Takinami...

[19:53] ---

What'd you expect? You guys
messed up during the competition.

[19:57] ---

It was a natural outcome.

[19:59] ---

Like I said before, why do you--?

[20:00] ---

--To be honest, I never thought that Mizuhara
would become the trigger

[20:02] ---

--What?

--To be honest, I never thought that Mizuhara
would become the trigger

[20:04] ---

for making a comeback.

[20:06] ---

Nor did I think that Kudo could play
all the way through with that hand,

[20:09] ---

or that you guys could
recover big together like that.

[20:14] ---

You didn't give your best performance today.

[20:19] ---

It was better than your best.

[20:22] ---

What...?

[20:25] ---

I liked your performance.

[20:28] ---

It was a good performance.

[20:31] ---

You guys can become even better.

[20:36] ---

My bad. I can only say what I think.

[20:50] ---

I'm so frustrated!

[20:53] ---

We'll win next time for sure!

[20:56] ---

I'll... I'll practice more
and more to get better!

[21:00] ---

Next time, I'll perform a lot better than today!

[21:04] ---

Our next competition is
the national qualifier, right?

[21:08] ---

Yeah.

[21:09] ---

We're definitely gonna go...

[21:12] ---

...to nationals!

[21:21] ---

Let's go for sure!

[21:25] ---

Yep.

[21:31] ---

All right! We'll make it happen!

[21:32] ---

Ahhh, okay, okay. Good luck.

[21:34] ---

Let's go home already.

[21:36] ---

You're not telling us
to quit dreaming today, huh?

[21:40] ---

I don't say things that I don't think.

[23:38] ---

Next time, "Becoming Aware."

[23:41] ---

"#15 Becoming Aware"

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