Sadako's Cranes

A 32-bar strathspey for three couples in a longwise set

BARS	DESCRIPTION
1–4	1st couple set and, giving right hands, change places.
5–8	1st and 2nd couples "set and mirror link": Joining hands on the sides, both couples set, then 1st couple cast off to second place while 2nd couple dance up to the top to finish facing out.
9–16	2nd, 1st, and 3rd couples dance mirror reels of three on the sides, 1st couple dancing in and down to begin. All join nearer hands with partners where appropriate. At the end, 2nd and 3rd couples loop into place.
17–24	1st and 3rd couples dance a Circulating Slip Knot:
	17–22 3rd couple dance bars 1–6 of a standard two-couple Knot. At the same time, 1st couple dance bars 1–6 of a standard two-couple Knot, dancing as the leading couple but starting towards the top. (On bar 4, the couples dance past each other such that 1st couple is on the side in 3rd place and 3rd couple is in 2nd place.)
	23–24 3rd and 1st couples dance left hands across halfway to finish where they started the formation.
25–28	1st couple dance towards partner, briefly face the top touching nearer hands, dance out again and cast off (3rd couple step up on bars 27–28).
29–32	1st couple, giving both hands, turn one and a half times to finish in third place on own sides.
	Repeat from new places.
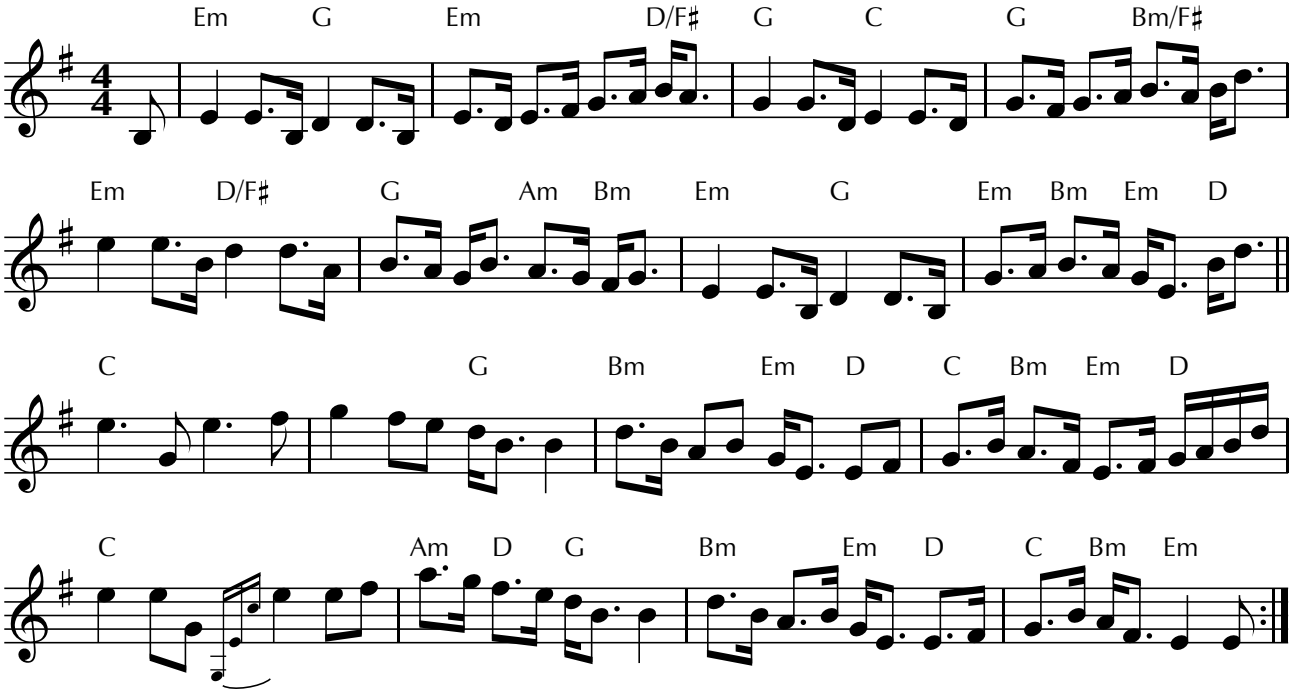
Sasaki Sadako was exposed to the Hiroshima nuclear bomb detonation at age two. Nine years later, she was diagnosed with leukemia and admitted to hospital. A Japanese tradition claims that if you fold a thousand origami *paper cranes you will be granted a wish, and Sadako's wish was to have a world without nuclear weapons. Contrary to popular belief, she did manage a thousand cranes during August 1955 (her main problem was sourcing enough paper, so she used discarded medicine wrappings and whatever else she could find) and continued folding more cranes until her death in October 1955, at age 12. Her friends and schoolmates raised funds for a monument to her and all other children who died because of the A-bomb explosions; this is the* Children's Peace Monument *in Hiroshima's Peace Park. Many more paper cranes have also been contributed in support of her cause.*
Unfortunately, in spite of the countless paper cranes, Sadako's wish is yet to come true.

Devised by Anselm Lingnau, Frankfurt Scottish Country Dance Club e. V., November 2026.

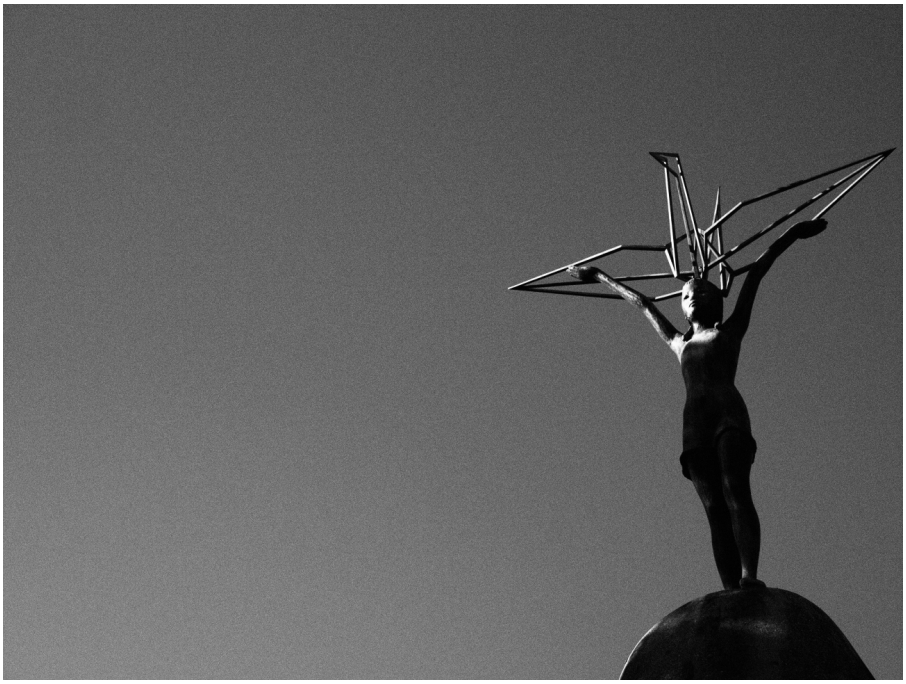
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Sadako's Cranes

Our Someday — *Dave Wiesler*



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Children's Peace Monument, Peace Park, Hiroshima, Japan
Photograph by Anselm Lingnau