

World Premiere!

"UZU AND MUZU"

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A Music Alive Commission/Residency Project of the Stockton Symphony



Part 1: Far, Far Away (1:29)

Far, far away beyond the mountain,
In the village of Kakaruzu by the fountain,
In a white house,
Where red flowers grow,
Two happy brothers
Lived long ago.

Two brothers.

And so we can remember and tell them apart,
The eldest was named Uzu; the young one they called Muzu.
Uzu and Muzu from Kakaruzu.
Now how's that for a start?

Part 2 – The Two Brothers (3:18)

Each brother loved the other true and right
They never quarreled; never had a fight.
There were no better friends, there were simply none.
And more often than not, they seemed to be one.

For example,
One day Uzu had to get a shot
So he rested all day in his bed.
But to everyone's surprise, or maybe not,
Poor Muzu also was sore and his bottom got red.

Do you need more examples?
Alright:
Let's say that Muzu had a bad dream.
Then Uzu would wake up all shaky and scream.

When Muzu was still in a diaper,
Uzu already was going to school
Yet he insisted on sucking a pacifier
And didn't care that kids called him a fool.

On the other hand,
When Uzu reported for duty
A soldier, handsome and brave,
Then Muzu, a boy of eleven,
Saluted and started to shave.

Uzu is tired,
Muzu sleeps.
Muzu gets a cut,
Uzu bleeds.

One goes to the beach,
The other gets tanned.

One feels dizzy,
The other can't stand.

And some even say by the light of the moon
The brothers would snore an identical tune.

Part 3 - Snoring the Same Tune (2:16)

sh...."snor"...sh.... sh...."snor"...sh....

And the snoring was so loud that no one could sleep in the village that June.

In short, wherever you'd go,
Whomever you'd ask,
Friends and neighbors would all say together:
Uzu and Muzu from Kakaruzu?
They are what you'd call birds of a feather.

Part 4 - The Fight (5:17)

And then, one rainy day
Both windy and cold
As they sat by a hearth
Both reddish and gold
And as flames started dancing higher and higher
An argument arose
As stormy as fire.

A serious dispute as icy as frost,
Which way is proper for the legs to be crossed?

Uzu shouted and announced with great heft:
“Below is the right leg, and above should be left!”
And Muzu replied irate and headstrong:
“Left is down, right is up, and you’re simply wrong!”

“You’re a fool,” answered Uzu with a lion-ish roar:
“Left goes up to the ceiling, and the right to the floor!”

“And you,” answered Muzu, fire coming out of his nose
“Are completely a moron – from your head to your toes!”

“You’re stupid!”
“And you’re a fool!”
“You’re not so smart, bro!”
“And you’re a mule!”
“Shut your mouth or I’ll break your wrist!”
“Don’t you threaten me, I also have a fist!”
“Oh yeah?!”
“Yeah!”
“Just you try...”
“Here ...”

And then they stopped shouting.
Uzu and Muzu started to rumble
It seems that Muzu was the first:
He picked up a shovel,
And Uzu took a pitchfork
Which spelled real trouble
Next there was a chair
That flew up in the air
And a table leg that one used as a bat
And Whack! and Crack!
Bam, Whaam, Ouch, and Splat!!!



The next morning, Muzu was missing two teeth
Limped, and could hardly move a finger
Uzu had two black eyes
A crooked shoulder, and injuries that would linger

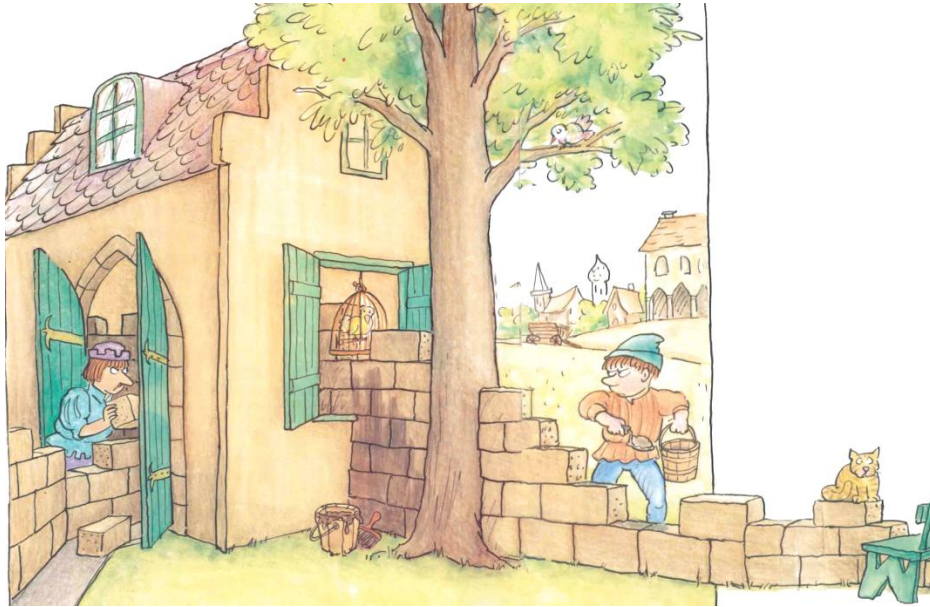
They looked at each other with unfathomable fury
And Muzu decreed like a judge to a jury
“The left should be down”
And he cursed at his brother,
And said: “From now on we’ll never speak to each other.”

And Uzu while trying not to fall
Said: “You’re wrong, left goes up, right goes down, and that’s all.
And that’s it, that’s the end.
No longer will I be your friend.”
Muzu turned pale and nodded his head.
“I used to have a brother, but now he is dead.”
They turned both their backs,
Their hearts broken with pain,
And they never said a word to each other again.

Part 5 - Building the Wall (1:28)

Far, far away beyond the mountain
In the village of Kakaruzu by the fountain
Already a week has passed since the fight
And if you’d look at the brothers’ house
You’d see a strange sight.
Uzu and Muzu are building a wall,

That cuts through the bathroom, the kitchen and hall...
 And it goes on and stretches out to the garden.
 Without saying a word or thinking of pardon,
 The brothers are mixing and pouring cement,
 Adding stones, and then bricks,
 Filled with rage and resent.
 A year has gone by, plus one summer and fall.
 And between them now stands a tall, thick gray wall.
 Each brother sits in his fortified space
 From now on they won't have to see each other's face.



Part 6 - Years Passed on By (3:14)

Years passed on by, as time usually flies.
 And they grew up to be two handsome guys.
 Uzu got married to a girl from out of town,
 And a son, Yasu, was born, and was the jewel of their crown.
 But whenever his wife would wait for Uzu's reply,
 Why that ugly wall stretched through their house by and by,
 Uzu could no longer remember what the big fight was about,
 Yet he would answer with a voice that left no room for doubt,
 "The man who lives over there,
 Is a bloodthirsty crook, and that's to say the least.
 To make it short - he's a man in the shape of a beast.
 And that's what the wall is all about,
 It defends us and keeps that mean neighbor out."
 "Woe to you" he then finished and said:
 "If to the other side you will ever tread."
 And she never tried.
 I mean, really, whose wife
 Would do such a thing and risk her own life?!

And Muzu?
Muzu also fell in love, with a girl from a distant place.
And soon they had a son they loved to embrace
His wife also was no fool, not at all,
And one day she dared to ask about that wall,
“The wall was built” Muzu started to say,
“Because... because...”
He couldn’t remember and his words went astray.
But he had to say something and so,
He started asserting the neighbor’s a foe.
“The man who lives beyond those bricks
Is a two-legged creature, who plays evil tricks.
A murderer, a criminal, and a thief,
Woe to his victims whose lives are so brief.”
“In that case,” she answered shrunken with fear,
“I won’t touch that wall, or even come near.”

Part 7 – Generations Pass (2:14)

Generations pass
And no one can stop recounting
The tale of the devil behind the wall
Generations pass
And when it all started, what it all was about
No one can remember, no one can recall

Uzu and Muzu are resting peacefully in their graves for many a year.
But their children’s children’s children’s children’s children
Are still telling to whomever will hear,
How terrible and scary is that neighbor.
Against whom that wall was built in the east,
An enemy that turned from man into beast.

Part 8 – Little Boy Named Uzu (4:52)

Far, far away beyond the mountain
In the village of Kakaruzu by the fountain
A young mischievous boy was strolling one day.
His name was Uzu, after his great- great- great- great- great granddad
Whom we all remember the fight he and his brother had...

Anyway, young Uzu was walking
Close to the wall which divided his house,
And thought: “I would like to know, what’s the size of that monster?
Is it as tall as a tree?
Is it gray like a mouse?
Is it really so scary,
That once you see it your mind becomes empty and hollow?
And when it gets you, what does it actually do?

Does it bite you, or just swallow?
Oh, I would like so much to have a look at it.
Maybe I'll jump above and... No!
Mom said that naughty boys are its favorite treat.
Maybe I'll just have a quick look.
And what if it knows that I'm coming,
And what if it's tongue is a fast, sticky hook?
Ok then, not a quick look, but a hasty glimpse, that's all.
Just before Mom comes back from the mall.
Should I?
No, I should not.
Dad said, I'll be sorry forever!
Should I not?
Yes! I should!
OK. It's now or never!"

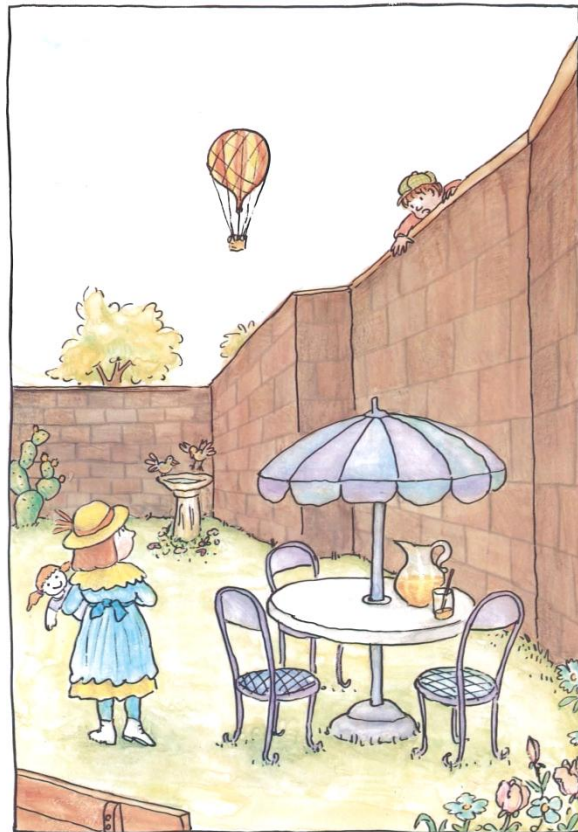
His mind is made up,
And here's the first jump...
It takes a long time to climb up that wall,
It's humongous and high and young Uzu is small.
He strains and he sweats,
Slowly he strives.
Soon enough he'll be there,
And at last he arrives.

To the other side he sneaks a quick glance,
He can't see any monster, not even by chance.
His eyes are wide open, he finally blinks.
"Maybe it's ambushing me", he thinks.
"It's hiding and waiting until it can creep,
And then when I turn, it will jump me and leap.
Ok then, I should really take care,
But what's that?
What's running over there?

It's a.....Girl
Yes, a girl his age was playing in plain sight,
As if a monster was no cause for fright
"Be careful!" Uzu calls to the girl with pink cheeks.
"Run away!" He shouts. "Run away!" He shrieks.
The girl stops. "Run away, you say? Why?"
And Uzu, all frightened screams his reply
"Don't just wait there, run away, go!
There's a monster down there, my dad told me so.

A big bad monster with razor sharp jaws,
It eats little girls for no reasonable cause!"

Now, give me your hand and climb up the wall.
 Let's run to the other side. Throw me your doll."
 "Over there?!" the girl asks "No, not me. Mm-mm" she repeats.
 "I'm not passing that wall. Not even for sweets."
 "The monster lives on the side from which you have appeared.
 And I'm surprised you're not eaten, not cooked and not speared.
 Everyone knows how much it likes to chew.
 Come over here before it gets you too."
 Listen girl, what's your name?"
 "My name is Muza, in case you really want to know."
 "Well Muza, please stop with this show.
 You're safer on my side, come on, lets go!"
 "On your side?! Not even if that's my last choice!"
 Muza answers with an angry voice.
 "Come down here dude, there's no time to debate!
 The monster is on your side, and you look like bait!"
 "Maybe there are no monsters," Uzu mused,
 "Perhaps Dad was wrong, or at least confused?"
 Muza listened, and her eyes started blazing.
 "My Dad was wrong too. OMG! That's amazing!"

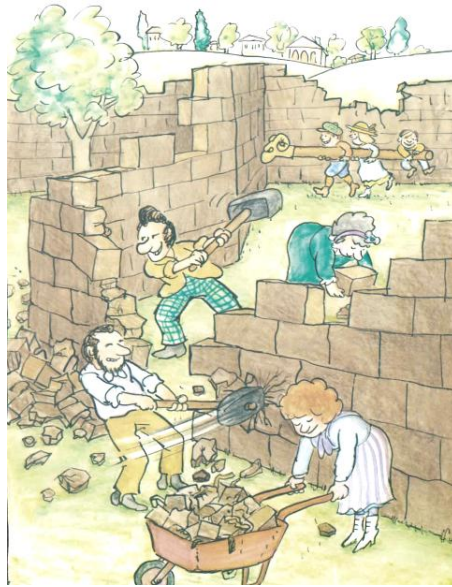


Then Muza decides to check it with her own eyes.
 She takes his hand, and up she flies.
 She stands up there and scans the view,
 "There is no monster, yep," she said, "that's true."
 "I want to tell my parents, come with me. Let's slide."
 "And then we go to mine", Uzu says, "just on the other side."

Part 9 – Far, Far Away (2:51)

Far, far away beyond the mountain
In the village of Kakaruzu by the fountain
Into a little white house, where red flowers grow
A newlywed couple moved in long ago.
Who is that couple?!

Do you really need to guess? ... Well all right, be my guests, you can try...
The bride in the white dress is... Muza
And the groom is... our Uzu, with a fancy bow tie.



From time to time, as relatives drop by for a visit,
Uzu tells jokes, and Muza's cooking's exquisite.
But then sometimes, both sides whisper with an embarrassed sigh
"What fools have we been, believing that lie...?
Why didn't we try to investigate?
Believing rumors, and loving to hate?
We made no effort to find out and reveal.
How did we accept?
And didn't suspect,
Preferring old tales to what's right and what's real?"
And then Uzu says: "Well, that's how it goes.
When you don't know your neighbors,
You believe they're your foes.
And then instead of trying to become their friend,
You build thick tall walls and you start to defend.
When you don't know them well, it's easy to delete their faces and features,
Then you easily say that they're not humans but that they are creatures."
And then everyone agrees, "Uzu's right, all those years we made one big mistake."
And they drink one more coffee and eat one more cake.

Part 10 – Finale (2:18)

By the way,
Uzu and Muza are a great pair.
And if they still listen,
And still like to share,
And if both of them care,
And if they're still fair,
And if a black cat is nowhere in sight,
And if they don't start a silly fight,
Then they live happily ever after,
Like a match made in heaven,
At least until today,
At a quarter to seven.

