

80s pop tune of Japan's next PM hot in online auction

日本準首相八〇年代唱片網拍大熱門



Above: Yukio Hatoyama, president of the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), speaks to the media at the party headquarters in Tokyo, on Sept. 7, 2009.

Right: Yukio Hatoyama smiles as he puts a rosette on the name of an elected candidate at the DPJ's elections headquarters in Tokyo, Japan on Aug. 30, 2009.

上圖：九月七日，日本民主黨黨魁鳩山由紀夫在東京中央黨部對媒體發言。

右圖：八月三十日於民主黨東京競選總部，鳩山由紀夫笑著將一朵玫瑰花飾貼在當選人的名牌上。

Japan's next prime minister, Yukio Hatoyama, may be trying to change the tone of his country's politics, but it is the tunes he released two decades ago that have **struck a chord** with online fans.

His pop **ballad** single "Take Heart — Fly, Dove of Peace," a 1988 vinyl recorded shortly after Hatoyama was first elected to parliament, recently sold for some ¥35,000 (NT\$12,400) on the Internet, a Japanese tabloid reported.

The title is a play on his name, which includes the word "dove," which can also sound like the Japanese pronunciation of the English word "heart."

The 62-year-old, who led his Democratic Party of Japan to a crushing victory over the ruling Liberal Democratic Party last week, is to be sworn in as prime minister on Sept. 16.

The producer of the record, a 65-year-old dentist from northern Hokkaido island, home of Hatoyama's constituency, said he was surprised at the online auction site bidding war that broke out after the record started at 1,000 yen.

"I never imagined that there would be a day when this tune would come into the spotlight," Teruaki Asanuma was quoted as saying by *Kyodo News*.

The dentist said he wrote the song at Hatoyama's request, and that 100 copies were distributed, mostly to supporters in his political group.

Hatoyama had originally wanted to sing a traditional Japanese tune, but Asanuma recommended a lighter pop style reflecting Hatoyama's **"urban flair."**

Hatoyama was "quite **accustomed** to singing," Asanuma reportedly said.

(AFP)



本新任首相鳩山由紀夫也許試圖改變日本的政治調性，不過真正在網路上引起廣泛共鳴的，其實是他二十年前發行的一張唱片。一九八八年，鳩山首次當選國會議員後不久，就自己錄製了一張黑膠唱片，收錄流行抒情單曲「任心飛翔，和平鴿」。據日本小報報導，最近這張唱片在網路上以三萬五千日圓（新台幣一萬兩千四百元）的價格賣出。

歌名取他名字玩文字遊戲，其中的「dove」意思就是「鳩」，而「heart」的日文發音又類似鳩（hato）。

這位六十二歲的日本民主黨黨魁，上週帶領民主黨以壓倒性勝利擊敗執政的自民黨，並將於九月十六日宣誓就職。

這張唱片的製作人是北海道北部（也就是鳩山當初出身的選區）的一位牙醫，現年六十五歲。他表示看到拍賣網上的競標價格從一千日圓開始飆漲，感到很驚訝。

日本共同通信社引述淺沼晃明的話：「我從來沒有想過這首歌會有翻紅的一天。」

他說當初是應鳩山的請求寫這首歌，然後壓製了一百張送人，受贈者多半是他政治圈的支持者。

鳩山本來想演唱日本傳統歌謠，但淺沼推薦他嘗試輕快的流行曲風，好反映他的「都會特質」。

報導指出，淺沼說鳩山「還蠻會唱歌的」。

(法新社／翻譯：袁星塵)

✓ TODAY'S WORDS 今日單字

1. **ballad** /'bæləd/ n.

抒情歌 (shu1 qing2 ge1)

例：The concert ended with the singer's most popular hit — a ballad he recorded at the beginning of his career.

(這名歌手在演唱會最後唱了他最受歡迎的歌曲——他剛出道時錄製的一首抒情歌。)

2. **urban** /'zɜːbən/ adj.

都市的 (du1 shi4 de5)

例：It seems like more and more people are ready to escape from the pressures of modern urban life.

(似乎愈來愈多人準備逃離現代都市的高壓生活。)

3. **accustomed** /ə'kʌstəmd/ adj.

習慣的 (xi2 guan4 de5)

例：I've brought my sunglasses — my eyes still aren't accustomed to the bright sunlight.

(我帶了太陽眼鏡來，我的眼睛還無法適應耀眼的陽光。)

✓ IDIOM POINT 重要片語

strike a chord 引起共鳴

If something **strikes a chord** with someone, they find some kind of relevance or connection between it and their own life.

Examples: "The proposal to provide free health care to anyone over 60 has really **struck a chord** with voters," or "Judging by the number of emails, the show really **struck a chord** with viewers."

若某件事物「strike a chord with」某人，就表示他們察覺該事物和他們的生活間有某種關聯。

例如：「提供六十歲以上老人免費醫療照護的提議引起選民的共鳴」，或是「從收到的電子郵件數量看來，這場表演真的引起了觀眾的共鳴」。