

**Kiri (White mist):**

White mist accompanying the sound of mountain stream.  
Letting me still, alone.

Midori Higashijo

*Tanka* is an old Japanese form of poetry existing more than fifteen hundred years. In the past it was used by the Japanese aristocracy and crafted with strict writing rules. It consists of five units usually with the following mora pattern: 5-7-5-7-7.

The low register chords in the accompaniment, is played in free tempo and written with no bar lines. This is for allowing the pianist enough space to let the chords resonate its overtones, and at the same time keep up with the singer progression which is more precise. This slow and balanced process provokes texture, rhythm and timbre which emphasizing the meaning of the text the way I saw it.

The author, Midori Higashijo grandfather of pianist Masako Yokouchi published two books of *Tanka*. His poetry evokes strong feelings of exchange between nature and humanity.