

The
Economist

坂本龍一

Sakamoto Ryuichi



The Economist

听读系列



请多多点赞！谢谢大家 译文在评论区
公众号：狂奔的外刊 分享PDF链接

电子音乐

声音的外部民族主义者

坂本龙一听到了这个世界的声音，并改变了它

Electronic music

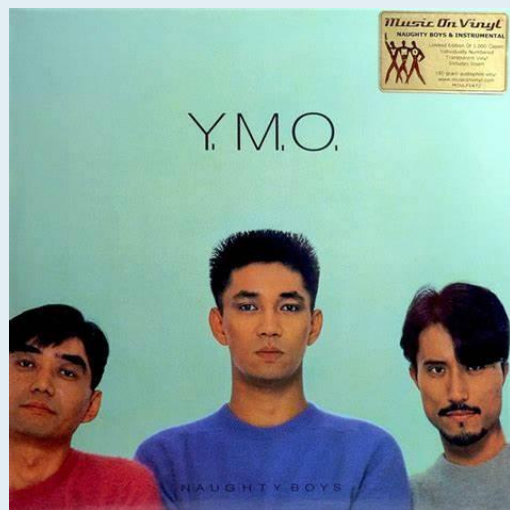
The sonic multinationalist

Sakamoto Ryuichi heard how the world sounds—and
changed it

Rain

bilibili 狂奔的外刊

1. **SAKAMOTO RYUICHI**, who died on March 28th after a long battle with **cancer**, once described his musical method **thus**: “I open my ears to the world.” But what Mr Sakamoto heard, few others could. As a member of the Japanese **techno-pop** band **Yellow Magic Orchestra**, he helped **pioneer** modern electronic music.



Sakamoto Ryuichi *noun* 坂本龙一, 日本歌手、音乐制作人、演员、钢琴师

cancer /'kænsə/ *noun* [U, C] a serious disease in which **GROWTHS** of cells, also called cancers, form in the body and kill normal body cells. The disease often causes death. 癌; 癌症

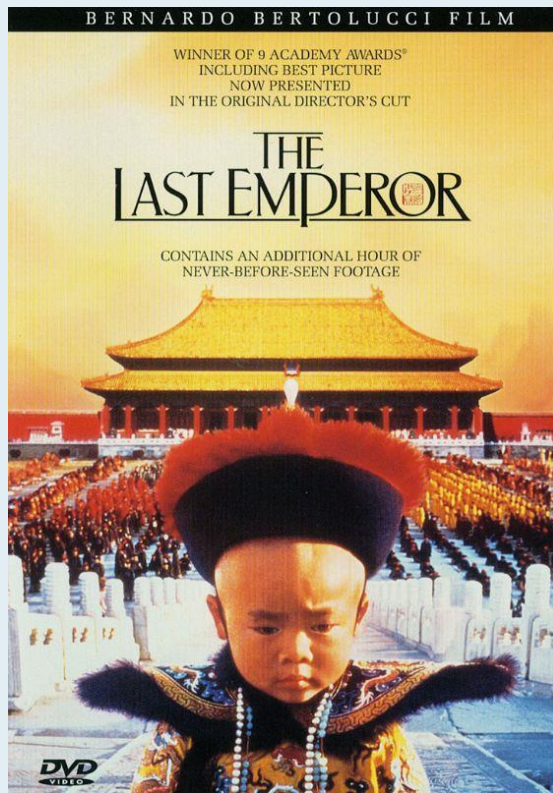
thus /ðʌs/ *adverb* (formal) in this way; like this 以此方式; 如此; 这样

techno-pop *noun* 电子流行音乐

Yellow Magic Orchestra *noun* Yellow Magic Orchestra (简称YMO), 是日本音乐家细野晴臣、高桥幸宏以及坂本龙一于1978年所组建的前卫时髦电子合成乐团。

pioneer /paɪə'niə/ *verb* ~ sth when sb **pioneers** sth, they are one of the first people to do, discover or use sth new 当开拓者; 做先锋; 倡导

As a **composer** of **epic** film **scores** he **enlivened** the work of directors such as **Bernardo Bertolucci** and **Alejandro Iñárritu**.



composer /kəm'pəʊzə/ **noun** a person who writes music, especially **CLASSICAL** music (尤指古典音乐的) 创作者; 作曲者; 作曲家

epic /'epɪk/ **adjective** [usually before noun] having the features of an **EPIC** 具有史诗性质的; 史诗般的

score /skɔ:/ **noun** [C] the music written for a film/movie or play (电影或戏剧的) 配乐

enliven /ɪn'laɪv(ə)n/ **verb** ~ sth (*formal*) to make sth more interesting or more fun 使更有生气 (或活力)

Bernardo Bertolucci **noun** 贝纳尔多·贝托鲁奇 (意大利导演)

1988年, 坂本龙一为电影《末代皇帝》创作的配乐获得第60届奥斯卡金像奖-最佳原创配乐奖

Alejandro Iñárritu **noun** 亚利桑德罗·伊纳里图, 墨西哥导演、编剧、剪辑师、制作人。
2015年, 坂本龙一担任剧情电影《荒野猎人》的音乐监制

In his later **solo** work, he **grappled** with **mortality** in **haunting** **ambient** **soundscapes**.



solo /'səʊləʊ/ **adjective** [only before noun] connected with or played as a musical solo 独唱的; 独奏的

grapple /'græp(ə)l/ **verb** [I] to try hard to find a solution to a problem 努力设法解决

mortality /mɔ:'tælɪti/ **noun** pl. **mor-tal-ities** [U] the state of being human and not living for ever 生命的有限

haunting /'hɔ:ntɪŋ/ **adjective** beautiful, sad or frightening in a way that cannot be forgotten 萦绕心头的; 使人难忘的

ambient /'æmbɪənt/ **adjective** (especially of music 尤指音乐) creating a relaxed atmosphere 产生轻松氛围的

soundscape **noun** 音景; 声景; 声景观

His **passing** **elicited** **tributes** from musical **luminaries** around the world, **testimony** to the influence of his **genre-spanning** career.



passing /'pɑːsɪŋ/ **noun** (*formal*) the fact of sth ending or of sb dying (事物的) 结束, 消亡; (人的) 亡故, 逝世

elicit /ɪ'lɪsɪt/ **verb** ~ sth (from sb) (*formal*) to get information or a reaction from sb, often with difficulty 引出; 探出; 诱出

tribute /'trɪbjʊt/ **noun** [U, C] ~ (to sb) an act, a statement or a gift that is intended to show your respect or admiration, especially for a dead person (尤指对死者的) 致敬, 颂辞; 悼念; 致哀; 吊唁礼物

luminary /'luːmɪn(ə)rɪ/ **noun** *pl.* **lu·mi·naries** a person who is an expert or a great influence in a special area or activity 专家; 权威; 有影响的人物

testimony /'testɪmənɪ/ **noun**
pl. **tes·ti·monies** [U, *sing.*] ~ (to sth) (*formal*) a thing that shows that sth else exists or is true 证据; 证明

genre-spanning **adjective** 跨流派的

2. Mr Sakamoto was born in Tokyo in 1952 and took to music early. He graduated from one of Tokyo's top conservatories, where he studied Western classical music, becoming especially enamoured with Claude Debussy. There, he also explored an interest in the traditional music of Japan's Okinawa prefecture as well as in that of India and Africa.



conservatory /kən'sɜ:vət(ə)rɪ/ *noun*

(NAmE) (BrE **con·ser·va·toire**) a school or college at which people are trained in music and theatre 音乐 (或戏剧) 专科学校 (或学院)

Western classical music *noun* 西方古典音乐

enamoured /ɪ'næməd/ *adjective* (formal) (often in negative sentences 常用于否定句) liking sth a lot 爱好; 喜欢

Claude Debussy *noun* 克洛德·德彪西, 法国作曲家

Okinawa *noun* 冲绳岛, 知名生态旅游小岛

prefecture /'pri:fektʃvəl/ *noun* an area of local government in some countries, for example France, Italy and Japan (法、意、日等国的) 地方行政区域; 省; 县



3. Early in his career, Mr Sakamoto trained his ears on the sound of technology. Yellow Magic Orchestra (YMO), a group he formed in 1978 **alongside Hosono Haruomi and Takahashi Yukihiro**, used **synthesisers** in **instrumental** songs intended for dancing—a **novel** combination at the time.



alongside /əlon'said/ *prep.* together with or at the same time as sth/sb 与 ... 一起; 与 ... 同时

Hosono Haruomi *noun* 细野晴臣, 日本著名音乐家

Takahashi Yukihiro *noun* 高桥幸宏, 日本作曲家、编曲家、歌手

synthesiser *noun* an electronic machine for producing different sounds. Synthesizers are used as musical instruments, especially for copying the sounds of other instruments, and for copying speech sounds. 音响合成器

instrumental /instru'ment(ə)/ *adjective* made by or for musical instruments 用乐器演奏的; 为乐器谱写的

novel /'nɒv(ə)/ *adjective* (often approving) different from anything known before; new, interesting and often seeming slightly strange 新颖的; 与众不同的; 珍奇的

“Errors or noises **absorb** me and I wonder if new cultural **currents** could emerge from this **deficiency**,” Mr Sakamoto said in “**Tokyo Melody**”, a 1984 **documentary** about his experiments.



absorb /əb'sɔ:b/ **verb** ~ **sb** to interest sb very much so that they pay no attention to anything else 吸引全部注意力；使全神贯注

current /'kʌr(ə)nt/ **noun** the fact of particular ideas, opinions or feelings being present in a group of people 思潮；潮流；趋向

deficiency /di'fɪjənsi/ **noun**

pl. de-fi-ciencies (formal) [U, C] ~ (in/of sth) the state of not having, or not having enough of, sth that is essential 缺乏；缺少；不足

Tokyo Melody **noun** 东京旋律：一部关于坂本龙一的电影(1985)

Tokyo melody: un film sur Ryuichi Sakamoto

documentary /dəkju'ment(ə)rɪ/ **noun**

pl. docu-men-taries a film or a radio or television programme giving facts about sth 纪录片；纪实广播（或电视）节目

That was exactly what happened: Mr Sakamoto's music helped inspire what would later become **techno** and **hip-hop**. His early work also **presaged** the **bleeps** and **boops** that became the soundscape of the modern digital world. (He would take a turn at composing some of those too, including **ringtones** for early **Nokia** mobile phones.)



techno /ˈteknəu/ **noun** [U] a type of fast, electronic dance music, typically with little or no singing 泰克诺音乐（一种节奏快、通常无歌声相伴的电子舞曲）

hip hop **noun** [U] a type of popular music with spoken words and a steady beat played on electronic instruments, originally played by young African Americans 嘻哈音乐（由美国黑人兴起，包括说唱和电子乐器演奏）

presage /ˈpresɪdʒ/ **verb** ~ sth (*literary*) to be a warning or sign that sth will happen, usually sth unpleasant 预兆，警示，预言（尤指不祥之事）

bleep /bli:p/ **noun** a short high sound made by a piece of electronic equipment （电子仪器发出的）短促响亮的声音，哔哔声

boop **noun** 嘭嘭声

ringtone **noun** （尤指移动电话的）铃声

Nokia **noun** 诺基亚

4. YMO's success made Mr Sakamoto a star in Japan, leading to a role **opposite** **David Bowie** in **Oshima Nagisa's** 1983 film "**Merry Christmas, Mr Lawrence**". Mr Sakamoto agreed to act in the movie on the condition that he could score it.



opposite /'ɒpəzɪt/ **preposition** acting in a film/movie or play as the partner of sb 与 ... 合演; 与 ... 联袂演出

David Bowie *noun* 大卫·鲍伊, 英国摇滚歌手、演员

Oshima Nagisa *noun* 大岛渚, 日本电影导演

Merry Christmas, Mr Lawrence *noun* 圣诞快乐, 劳伦斯先生, 该片根据英国作家劳伦斯·凡·德·普司特的小说《种子与播种者》改编, 讲述了1942年在印尼爪哇岛日军战俘营内, 处于敌对立场的日本军官与英国战俘相互斗争的同时又在精神层面产生碰撞的故事

score /skoː/ **verb** [T, usually passive] to arrange a piece of music for one or more musical instruments or for voices 编总谱 (包括各种乐器及各声部的乐谱)

His **compositions**, which **blended** **melodic** piano **chords**, **sweeping** synthesisers and **Javanese gamelan**,



composition /kɒmpə'zɪʃ(ə)n/ **noun** [C] (*formal*) a piece of music or art, or a poem (音乐、艺术、诗歌的) 作品

blend /blend/ **verb** [I, T] to combine with sth in an attractive or effective way; to combine sth in this way (使) 调和, 协调, 融合

melodic /mi'lɒdɪk/ **adjective** [only before **noun**] connected with the main tune in a piece of music 主旋律的; 旋律的

chord /kɔ:d/ **noun** (*music* 音) two or more notes played together 和弦; 和音

sweeping /'swi:pɪŋ/ **adjective** [usually before **noun**] having an important effect on a large part of sth 影响广泛的; 大范围的; 根本性的

Javanese gamelan **noun** 爪哇加美兰音乐 (以木琴、大吊锣等乐器为主的印度尼西亚传统乐队)

propelled him to global fame—and established his **bona fides** as an artist who could **bridge** east and west.

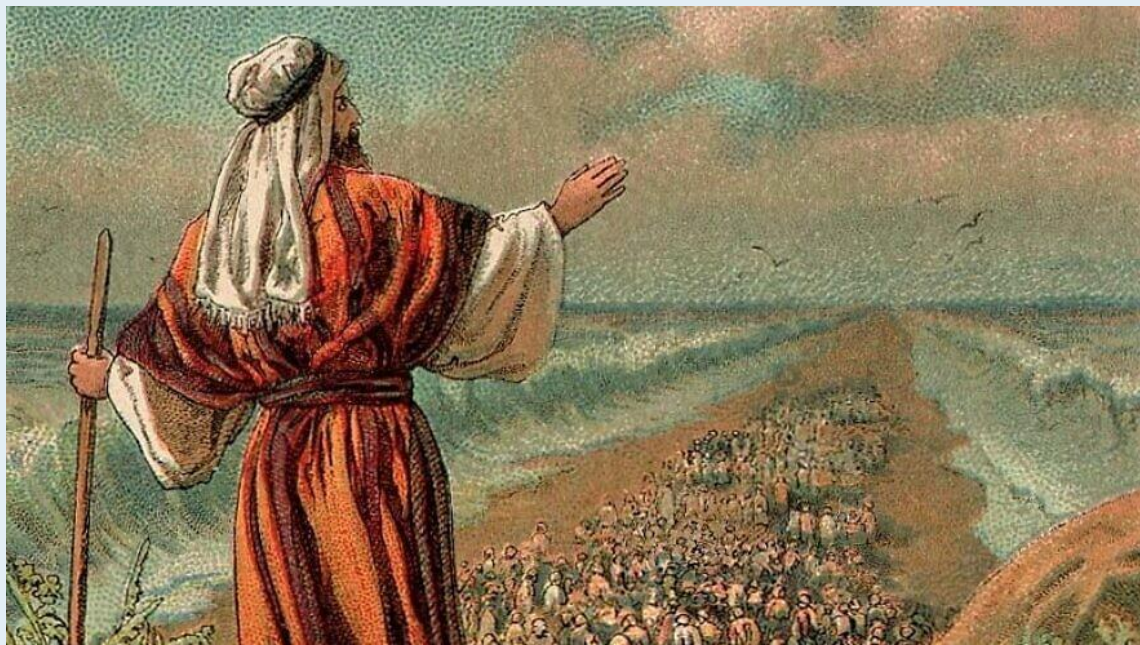


propel /prə'pel/ *verb* (-ll-) [often passive] ~ sth (+ *adv./prep.*) to move, drive or push sth forward or in a particular direction 推动; 驱动; 推进

bona fides /'bəʊnə'faɪdi:z/ *noun* [pl.] (*from Latin*) evidence that sb is who they say that they are; evidence that sb/sth is honest 真诚; 信誉

bridge /brɪdʒ/ *verb* to make the difference or division between two things smaller or less severe 减小...之间的差异

5. “I want to break down the walls between genres, **categories** or cultures,” he said many years later. He described his **philosophy** as “**outernationalism**”. “Being outernational is like **Moses** in the desert. There’s no country.”



category *noun* *pl. cat·egories* a group of people or things with particular features in common (人或事物的) 类别, 种类

philosophy /fi'losəfi/ *noun* [C] a set of beliefs or an attitude to life that guides sb's behaviour 人生哲学; 生活的信条 (或态度)

outernationalism *noun* 外部民族主义

Moses *noun* 摩西, 古希伯来民族领袖
摩西受上帝之命率领被奴役的以色列人逃离古埃及, 前往一块富饶之地迦南, 经历40多年的艰难跋涉, 到达目的地的时候就在当地去世享年120岁。在摩西的带领下古以色列人摆脱了被奴役的悲惨命运, 学会遵守十诫, 并成为历史上首个尊奉一神宗教的民族。

6. In the second half of his career he turned towards the sound of nature. “He listened to the wind blowing and the water falling, he listened to the rocks moving and to the leaves fluttering, and he introduced those sounds—consciously and subconsciously—into his music,” says Roger Pulvers, an author and film director.



flutter /'flʌtə/ **verb** [I, T] to move lightly and quickly; to make sth move in this way (使) 飘动, 挥动, 颤动

introduce /ɪntrə'dju:s/ **verb** to make sb learn about sth or do sth for the first time 使初次了解; 使尝试

conscious /'kɒnʃəs/ **adjective** (of actions, feelings, etc. 行为、感情等) deliberate or controlled 慎重的; 有意的; 刻意的

subconscious /sʌb'kɒnʃəs/ **adjective** [usually before noun] connected with feelings that influence your behaviour even though you are not aware of them 下意识的; 潜意识的

Roger Pulvers **noun** Roger Pulvers是一名编剧, 代表作品有《留给明天的遗书》、《安妮的日记》等。

7. His **sonic** interests **dovetailed** with his politics. Unusually for a Japanese musician, Mr Sakamoto used his fame to **speak out** on social and political issues, including **environmental preservation** and the **oppression of Okinawans**. **Nuclear power** was a particular **bugbear**.



sonic /'sɒnɪk/ **adjective** (*technical 术语*) connected with sound or the speed of sound 声音的; 声速的

dovetail /'dʌvteɪl/ **verb** [I, T] (*formal*) ~ (sth) (with/into sth) if two things **dovetail** or if one thing **dovetails** with another, they fit together well 吻合; 与 ... 吻合

speak out (against sth) to state your opinions publicly, especially in opposition to sth and in a way that takes courage 挺身 (反对某事物); 公开站出来 (反对)

environmental preservation *noun* 环境保护

the oppression of Okinawans *noun* 对冲绳人的压迫
冲绳美军基地对日本冲绳民众带来了严重的困扰

nuclear power *noun* 核能; 原子能

bugbear /'bʌgbɛə/ *noun* (*especially BrE*) a thing that annoys people and that they worry about 使人烦恼担忧的事; 牵挂

“They know nuclear power is unnecessary and dangerous,” he **railed** in an interview in 2006, five years before an earthquake and **tsunami** **rocked** north-east Japan and **triggered** a nuclear meltdown in **Fukushima**. **In the wake of** the disaster, Mr Sakamoto travelled often to the region to support local residents.



rail /reɪl/ **verb** [I, T] ~ (at/against sth/sb) | + **speech** (*formal*) to complain about sth/sb in a very angry way 怒斥; 责骂; 抱怨

tsunami /tsu:'nɑ:mi/ **noun** (*from Japanese*) an extremely large wave in the sea caused, for example, by an **EARTHQUAKE** 海啸; 海震

rock /rɒk/ **verb** [T, often passive] ~ sb/sth (*rather informal*) to shock sb/sth very much or make them afraid 惊吓; 使震惊; 使害怕

trigger /'trɪɡə/ **verb** ~ sth (*off*) to make sth happen suddenly 发动; 引起; 触发

a nuclear meltdown in Fukushima **noun** 福岛核事故。福岛核事故，2011年3月11日日本东北太平洋地区发生里氏9.0级地震，继发生海啸，该地震导致福岛第一核电站、福岛第二核电站受到严重的影响。

in the wake of sb/sth coming after or following sb/sth 随 ... 之后而来; 跟随在 ... 后

8. In 2014 a first cancer **diagnosis** **shook** Mr Sakamoto's life. But even that could not **mute** his **longing** to hear more. The next year he composed the score for **Mr Iñárritu's "The Revenant"**.



diagnosis /ˌdaɪəɡ'nəʊsɪs/ **noun** [C, U] *pl. diag-noses*
~ (of sth) the act of discovering or identifying the exact cause of an illness or a problem 诊断; (问题原因的) 判断

shake /ʃeɪk/ **verb** [T] (not used in the progressive tenses 不用于进行时) to shock or upset sb very much 使非常震惊; 使十分不安

mute /mju:t/ **verb** ~ sth to make sth weaker or less severe 减弱; 缓解

longing /'lɒŋɪŋ/ **noun** [C, U] a strong feeling of wanting sth/sb (对 ... 的) 渴望, 热望

Mr Iñárritu **noun** 指Alejandro Iñárritu 亚利桑德罗·伊纳里图, 墨西哥导演、编剧、剪辑师、制作人。

The Revenant **noun** 《荒野猎人》, 美国2015年莱昂纳多·迪卡普里奥主演剧情片

Two years later he released “**async**”, an **ambient** album constructed around **collages** of poetry and music that was recorded **partly** on a water-damaged piano he found in a **schoolhouse** after the tsunami.



Ryuichi Sakamoto
async

async *noun* 《async》是日本男音乐家坂本龙一的一张音乐专辑，收录15首歌曲，发行于2017年03月29日。坂本龙一称新专辑的构思和录制均在纽约完成，是他来自于对日常对象、雕塑和自然的感悟。

ambient /'æmbiənt/ *adjective* (especially of music 尤指音乐) creating a relaxed atmosphere 产生轻松氛围的

collage /'kɒləʒ/ *noun* [U, C] the art of making a picture by sticking pieces of coloured paper, cloth, or photographs onto a surface; a picture that you make by doing this 拼贴艺术；拼贴画

partly /'pɑːtli/ *adverb* to some extent; not completely 一定程度上；部分地

schoolhouse /'skuːlhaʊs/ *noun* a school building, especially a small one in a village in the past （尤指旧时乡村学校的）校舍

In “Coda”, a documentary about Mr Sakamoto released the same year, he can be seen traversing the North Pole and dropping microphones underneath the ice.



Coda *noun* 坂本龙一：终曲 Ryuichi Sakamoto: CODA

Coda在音乐术语中是一个乐章最后的段落里强调终止效果的乐段。正如有着匠人精神的坂本龙一，愿将每部作品都当做生命中的最后一部进行创作。

traverse /'trævəs/ *verb* ~ sth (*formal or technical 术语*) to cross an area of land or water 横过；横越；穿过；横渡

the North Pole *noun* [*sing.*] the point on the surface of the earth that is furthest north 北极

microphone /'maɪkrəfəʊn/ *noun* a device that is used for recording sounds or for making your voice louder when you are speaking or singing to an audience 麦克风；话筒；传声器

underneath /ʌndə'ni:θ/ *adverb* under or below sth else, especially when it is hidden or covered by the thing on top 在 ... 底下；隐藏（或掩盖）在下面

“I’m **fishing** the sound,” he says, **grinning** at the camera, before declaring his **catch** “the purest I’ve ever heard”.



fish /fɪʃ/ **verb** [I] to try to catch fish with a hook, nets, etc. 钓鱼; 捕鱼

grin /grɪn/ **verb** (-nn-) [I, T] to smile widely 露齿而笑; 咧着嘴笑; 粲然而笑

catch /kætʃ/ **noun** [C] the total amount of things that are caught 总捕获量