



Miyoshi Umeki

Miyoshi was the youngest of nine children. Her father owned an iron foundry. Miyoshi always had a love for American pop music. She practiced singing with a bucket over her head to avoid annoying her parents, taped piano key patterns to the dining room table to rehearse, and sang with a GI band for ninety cents a night in her teens. After World War II, she became a nightclub singer in Japan under the name of Nancy Umeki and recorded for RCA Victor Japan for four years. She sang mostly American jazz in both Japanese and English. When she moved to the United States in 1955, she released singles and albums with Mercury Records. She became a naturalized US citizen to reside in America to pursue her career. A year after receiving her Best Supporting Actress Oscar for *Sayonara* (1957), Miyoshi received a Tony Award nomination for best leading actress in the Broadway musical production of *Flower Drum Song* (1958). For the 1961 film version, she received a Golden Globe nomination for best supporting actress. She later became well-known among American households as Mrs. Livingston in the television series, *The Courtship of Eddie's Father* (1969-72). Miyoshi died of cancer at the age of 78.

Note: Some songs listed might have explicit content; listener discretion advised.