

When I Was Most Beautiful

Words by Noriko Ibaragi (1957); Music by Pete Seeger (1967)  
TRO - 1968 and 1970 Melody Trails, inc., New York, NY.

When I was most beautiful,  
Cities were falling  
And from unexpected places  
Blue sky was seen.

When I was most beautiful,  
People around me were killed.  
And for paint and powder  
I lost the chance.

When I was most beautiful,  
Nobody gave me kind gifts,  
Men knew only how to salute  
And went away.

When I was most beautiful,  
My country lost the war.  
I paraded the main street  
With my blouse sleeves rolled high!

When I was most beautiful,  
Jazz overflowed the radio,  
I broke the prohibition against smoking  
Sweet music of another land!

When I was most beautiful,  
I was most unhappy,  
I was quite absurd,  
I was quite lonely.