

OH MY GODDESS!

About the Series Name: “Oh My Goddess!” is based on the manga series “Aaa! Megamisamaa,” written by Fujishima Kousuke.

“Megamisama” means “goddess,” (in this case, with an extended ending vowel to add emotional emphasis) and “Aaa” is an expression that usually translates to “Oh!” or “Ah!” When the graphic design of the Japanese “Aaa! Megamisamaa” logo was being done, an English version of the series name was added for spice; the translation used was “Ah! My Goddess.” At the time, the possible English play on “Oh My God!” wasn't noticed, but was subsequently pointed out to Mr. Fujishima.

When it came time to do the English version of the anime and themanga, Mr. Fujishima was consulted regarding his preferences concerning character names and other matters, and he expressed a desire that the translated series be called “Oh My Goddess!”

About the Goddesses: All three goddesses are based on the Norns from Nordic mythology. The original goddesses were Verthandi (optional spelling: Verthande), Urd (optional spelling: Urthr) and Skuld, who were the goddesses of fate. Each of these goddesses had their own domain in time: Urd the past, Verthandi the present and Skuld the future. The goddesses of “Oh My Goddess!” have the same domains.

In the original manga series, Verthandi mutated into the more easily pronounceable “Beru-dandi.” This happened because there are no “Ve” and “th” sounds in Japanese. Then, somewhere along the line, a romaji (roman alphabet) version of the name was needed, one that could still be read by a Japanese reader, and “Berudandi” became “Belldandy” when spelt in English. We think it is a fine name for a goddess.

There are many other borrowings from Norse mythology in the series, but it would be giving things away to mention them at this early date.

On Romanizing Japanese: One problem we always face is how to convert names in the credits into English. While Japanese has fewer sounds than English, some of them are hard for English-speakers to pronounce. Over the years, many romanization systems have been developed and promoted. The system we use in the credits is one that borrows from many of the better ones, and aims to make pronunciation as easy as possible, but also keeps typographical elegance in mind.

Our experience in Japan has been that the Japanese go to great lengths to try to pronounce western names properly, so we thought we would try to help return the favor by including this short primer on Japanese sounds.

What follows is a very general quick-and-dirty guide; there are many subtleties that are beyond its scope.

Japanese syllables consist (with one exception, the terminal consonant “n”) of consonant-vowel combinations. So, for example, there is no sound consisting of just an “r,” and “Verdandi” becomes “Ve-RU-da-n-di” in Japanese. Each syllable takes the same amount of time to pronounce, and is almost always pronounced the same way, unlike English where each letter can have several pronunciations (the famous joke being that “Ghoti” is pronounced “Fish” -- as in “enouGH”, “wOmen” and “ficTlon”).

There are 5 vowels, romanized as “a,” “i,” “u,” “e,” and “o.” They are pronounced roughly as follows: “a” as the “a” in “fAther,” “i” as the vowel in “bEAt,” “u” as the vowel in “bOOK,” “e” as in “Edward,” and “o” as in “gOal.” Think of the vowels as having a little tiny “h” on the back of them.

Once you pronounce the vowels correctly, you'll almost certainly do a reasonable job with the consonants that precede them. Although the Japanese consonants are in general not as strong as English ones, the sounds are similar. There are some irregularities; in these cases the initial consonant becomes two consonants when romanized as a guide to the proper pronunciation.

The famous Japanese “r” is actually midway between the English “r” and “l,” and the Japanese have trouble telling the difference between the two (thus the infamous “flied lice”). In almost all cases, we use “r” to represent this sound, unless the owner of the name has expressed a preference.

The only consonant that stands by itself is “n,” which has several different but similar sounds based on the context in which it appears. It is transliterated as either “n” or “m,” whichever is more appropriate.

One thing to be aware of is that Japanese makes frequent use of long vowels; these are double-length syllables with the vowel sound extended. In our romanization, these are represented as a double vowel, although occasionally we will represent “oo” as “ou” for esthetic reasons. When you see one of these long vowels, just let the vowel hang in your throat a little longer than you think you should and you'll probably get it right.

Japanese people never expect English-speakers to get long vowels right, so your effort will be noticed.

Putting it all together, “Fujishima Kousuke” is pronounced “Fuh-jee-shee-mah Kooh-sue-keh.”

An Eyecatching commentary: Each episode of “Oh My Goddess!” is divided into two acts by an intervening “eyecatch.” In the case of “Oh My Goddess!,” this is a quick segment that looks like a slot machine, the reels of which contain the main characters.

These eyecatches originated in Japanese animated TV shows, and were used in pairs, framing the mid-episode commercial break. Recently they have started appearing in 25-30 minute OVAs as well.

The slot machine in the “Oh My Goddess!” eyecatch is actually a “Pachi-slo” or “Pachinko-slot”

machine. These are similar to the traditional Vegas one-armed-bandits, but have additional features such as buttons the player can use to try to stop the reels on winning combinations. Most Pachinko parlors in Japan now have Pachi-slo sections, and some are devoted entirely to the game.

Each eyecatch in "Oh My Goddess!" is slightly different from the others, and in the case of the eyecatch in #3, it was not possible to replace the Japanese logo with the English one, so it was left alone. As you can see, our English logo is a linguistically-inverted version of the Japanese logo.

Additional liner notes materials, including Japanese and English Voice Actor and Staff lists, can be found on our website at <http://www.animeigo.com/liner/omg.t>

"My Heart... Iidasenai, Your Heart... Tashikametai"
("My Heart" Can't Say It, "Your Heart" I Want To Know)

Lyrics by Hasegawa Sora

Music and Arrangement by Suda Takeshi

Performed by GODDESS FAMILY CLUB

(Inoue Kikuko, Tooma Yumi & Hisakawa Aya)

Just being close to you
doesn't make love happen.
Even if I make it a puzzle,
you can't figure it out because you're slow.
We came to the spring sea,
wearing summer clothes.
Please cover me gently with your shirt.

Koi ni naranai ne
soba ni iru dake ja.
Nazo o kakete mo
donkan na hito dakara.
Natsu no fuku o kite
haru no umi ni kita.
Anata no shirt de yasashiku kabatte.

"My Heart" won't let me say
"Please" kiss me.
"Day Dream" My dream gets bigger
and disappears high in the sky.

My Heart iidasenai
Please kiss shitette.
Day Dream yume wa fukurami
sora ni takaku kieru.

Any girl can be happy.
They all start shining once they fall in love.
Even if tears start to flow, or my heart aches,
if it's because of you, it won't be sad.

Onna no ko wa dare datte shiawase ni nareru.
Koi ga hajimareba kagayakidasu.
Tatoe namida nagashite mo anata no sei nara
mune o itamete mo kanashikunai.

I want to have a secret. I want to feel guilty.
Even though I know
what's happening with you,
I pretend that I don't.
Even if my heart pounds in Fall

Himitsu mochitai na. Tsumi o kanjitai.
Anata no NEWS
shittetemo
shiranpuri.
Aki ni tokimiete

or I feel blue in Winter,
I'll be OK if my precious love bears fruit.

fuyu ni nayande mo
daiji na koi ga minoreba ii yo ne.

I Want to Be Certain of "Your Heart."
I "Believe" in your fingers touching me.
It's my first "True Love,"
which is why my cheeks are burning up.

Your Heart tashikametai.
Believe fureta yubi o.
True Love hajimete dakara
hoo ga atsuku moeru.

When a girl falls in love,
she can become beautiful.
She doesn't even need red lipstick.
Even if she can't sleep at night,
all she does is dream.
She's overflowing with feelings of love.

Onna no ko wa koishitara
utsukushikunareru.
Akai kuchibeni mo hitsuyoonai.
Nemurenakute sugoshitemo
yume bakari miteru.
Omou kimochidake afureteiru.

Any girl can be happy.
If she is full of love, she can be invincible.
Even if tears start to flow, or her heart aches,
if it's because of you, she'll become gentler.

Onna no ko wa dare datte shiawase ni nareru.
Ai ga minagireba muteki ni naru.
Tatoe namida nagashite mo anata no sei nara
mune o itamete mo yasashiku naru.

Congratulations!

Lyrics by Hasegawa Sora

Music and Arrangement by Suda Takeshi

Performed by GODDESS FAMILY CLUB

(Inoue Kikuko, Tooma Yumi & Hisakawa Aya)

Walking around at a summer resort,
arm in arm,
we came across a "Wedding" at a chapel.
Gospels melting in the morning breeze.
A happy-looking couple.

Ude o kunda
hishochi no sampo de
guuzen deau chapel no wedding.
Asa no kaze ni tokekumu sambika.
Shiawasesoo na futari.

Let's go see.
Just then, the wedding vows rang out.
I want to share their happiness.
I look at you sidelong.

Nozoite ikoo yo.
Choodo chikai no kotoba ga hibiku.
Shiawase wakete hoshii.
Anata o yokome de miru.

The bells are ringing;
Flower petals flutter about in the wind.
True love fills up my heart.
All of a sudden, my tears start to flow,
and I wipe them on your shirt.

Kane ga naru wa
Hanabira ga mau wa.
Kokoro o mitasu tashikana ai.
Kyuu ni watashi namida ga afurete
anata no shirt de fuita.

“Congratulations!” “Thank you!”
The bride tossing her white bouquet.
“I will share my happiness with you.”
The groom smiling next to her.

When the car carrying the couple
starts to move, you yawn hugely.
I pinch your arm.
I wonder if you realize how I feel.

On the way back, while blushing, you said,
“I want to live with you someday.”
Can this be a proposal?

Walking around at a summer resort,
arm in arm,
we came across a “Wedding” at a chapel.
I had a feeling that that was
an invitation to our future.

At the station platform,
when the train starts moving,
we can't be apart from one another.
Where did you get it?
You showed me a shiny ring!

You put it on my shaky finger.

Omedetoo! Arigatoo!
Shiroi bouquet o sashidasu shimpu.
Shiawase wakete ageru.
Tonari de hohoemu kare.

Futari noseta kuruma ga ugoku to
anata ookina akubi hitotsu.
Gyutto ude o tsunette ageta no.
Omoi ni kizuku kashira.

Aa kaerimichi terenagara
itsuka kimi to kurashitai.
Masaka propose na no?

Ude o kunda
hishochi no sampo de
guuzen deau chapel no wedding.
Kitto watashi yokanshiteta no.
Mirai o sasotteita.

Eki no form ressha ga ugoku to
hanarerarenai futari ni naru.

Anata doko de te ni iretekita no.
Mabushii yubiwa miseta!

Furueru yubi ni kureta.