

A well-balanced soundtrack featuring popular music from the drama series and film "Tokyo Friends".

With the release of "Tokyo Friends - The Movie" in Summer 2006, in August was the release of "Tokyo Friends - The Movie Music Collection".

What you get in this compilation soundtrack are 25 tracks with six songs from "Survival Company" (the band that Otsuka Ai's character Rei sings vocals for) and the remaining 19 songs which are instrumental tracks used in the drama series and film.

After watching the "Navigation Edition" of "Tokyo Friends - The Movie" (digest (condensed) versions of episodes 1-5), I was instantly drawn into the music.

My first curiosity was Otsuka Ai as an actress in which she did very well for "Tokyo Friends" and then I became curious to see how she would adjust to being a rock singer.

Because "Tokyo Friends" does spotlight an "Indie band" as they evolve from performing to a dozen people and as it grows to an indie band that releases a CD and eventually performing at live houses in front of hundreds and then thousands of people.

You eventually start rooting for the band Survival Company and since you hear the music quite a few times through the drama series, you can't help but enjoy the music.

Otsuka Ai fans will enjoy the rock-based songs featured on this album. Original versions of "Friends" and "Tears" have been previously released on "Daisuki Dayo" (6th CD single) and "Yumekui" (12th CD single) but on this music collection are the "Sabakan Versions" of those songs.

But to give credit where credit is due is to the rock band Boo Bee Benz, who actually provided some of the music that you hear from the movie band Survival Company.

All in all, I enjoy the music collection but I wished that "Yumekui" (vocal version) was included. But like most Japanese drama and film soundtracks, rarely is the original theme included.

Bare in mind also that this is the movie music collection, songs from the series from Ryuujji's band for instance is not included.

But at any rate, I will say that the instrumental tracks are well done. To have many instrumental versions (orchestra, violin or piano solo) of "Yumekui", "Tears" and "Friends" is great.

Overall, this collection is a well-balanced soundtrack and to make it even more enticing is what the soundtrack comes with.

Also, included is a DVD which features the music videos for "Yumekui", "Friends" and



東京フレンズ
The Movie
music collection



"tears" which are derived from the live performance from the film and also clips from the film and I believe certain scenes from the drama series. So, in a way, you do get "Yumekui" included on this music collection but as a music video and five instrumental versions of it.

As an added bonus, three cool looking mini pins for the band Survival Company are

included.

So, in the end, for "Tokyo Friends" and Otsuka Ai fans, you really can't go wrong with this music collection. It has a great balance of music and personally, I like the style of music that Otsuka was able to do for this series and film.

So, definitely check this one out!

— DENNIS A. AMITH

TOKYO FRIENDS THE MOVIE - MUSIC COLLECTION
VARIOUS ARTISTS - TRACK LISTING

Catalog #: AVCF-22921/B | Dur. 1:01:17
Release date: August 23, 2006

- | | | | |
|-----|------------------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| 1. | TO ME (*) | 17. | Friends - Pf,Vc ver. |
| 2. | Chotto (*) | 18. | Yumekui - Love Theme |
| 3. | Friends - Sabakan ver. (*) | 19. | TEARS -STR VER.- |
| 4. | Kimi to Iu Hana (*) | 20. | Friends - Orchestra ver. |
| 5. | Hurricane (*) | 21. | Friends - Str ver. |
| 6. | tears - Sabakan ver. (*) | 22. | Yumekui - Pf ver. |
| 7. | Yumekui - Pf,Str ver. | 23. | Yumekui - Pf Full ver. |
| 8. | Happning | 24. | Friends - Pf Full ver. |
| 9. | Hachigatsu no Kaze | 25. | tears - Pf Full ver. |
| 10. | Kibo no Oka | | |
| 11. | Tegami | | |
| 12. | BEYOND OF THE SEA | | |
| 13. | Omoi | | |
| 14. | Yumekui - Pf,Str another ver | | |
| 15. | Hikari | | |
| 16. | TEARS -PF,STR VER.- | | |

DVD:

13 minutes, Region 2, 16:9 LB

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|----|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Yumekui - Tokyo Friends ver.- |
| 2. | Friends - Tokyo Friends ver.- |
| 3. | tears - Tokyo Friends ver.- |

(*) Survival Company songs (and songs that are vocal songs)