Cherry Blossoms

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Early spring weather can be rough on the famed cherry blossoms in Washington, DC. It's disappointing when the trees don't make it to their full bloom, as these iconic blossoms have inspired many creative works. During peak bloom, artists, photographers, writers, and others flock to the Tidal Basin and other blossom-filled points in the area to create their works.

Searching the Copyright Office's online records using the keywords "cherry blossom" yielded more than the maximum display of 10,000 records. Limiting the search to titles produced more than 650 results. Registered materials included music, haiku, fabrics, postage stamps, stories, jewelry—just about every subject available. Photographs and paintings are the most commonly submitted items, and many have become part of the Library's collection. The Library's collection also includes photos donated to the Library by Carol Highsmith, free of copyright restrictions.

The blossoms have inspired plenty of music as well. Copyrighted musical registrations about the cherry blossoms include words, music, and sound recordings of many genres. Among the registrations is C.D. Blake's piano sheet music for his "Cherry Blossom Polka." It was submitted as part of the collection titled *Leaves and Blossoms*, published in 1877 by White, Smith, and Co. of Boston.

Authors continue to write songs about the cherry blossoms today. Recent submissions include harp music, a variety of sound recordings, and lyrics with and without musical arrangements.

Hopefully the brief window of peak bloom each year is enough to continue to inspire a great number of creative works. However short, cherry blossom time is one of the most beautiful in town. ©

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