“Makura Gaeshi”

While brainstorming to come up with a name for our newly-formed taiko group (and coming up empty-handed), we jokingly began looking up Japanese *yokai* as a source of inspiration. In doing so, we stumbled upon the Makura Gaeshi, or “Pillow-Mover”; an apparition with such a bizarre set of characteristics that it simply needed to have a song written about it.

As its’ name suggests, the Makura Gaeshi is primarily known as a night-time prankster, notorious for moving one’s pillow while they sleep; often all the way to the foot of the bed. The darker tellings have the creature paralyzing, stealing the souls of, and even killing their victims. Shigeru Mizuki’s *Yokai Daizukai* gets even stranger, depicting the spirit as having a special organ for “creating rainbow-colored light that it emits through its eyes.”

These characteristics are those that I’ve attempted to depict in this piece. Included here are both the complete score and video-taped performance of ShinDaiko’s arrangement, as well as sheet music and video examples of the song’s five main themes. These themes are the core of the piece, which can be arranged in whatever form, and for whatever instrumentation, you or your group see fit. Anyone is welcome to use our arrangement, or to create their own. Different sources regarding the Makura Gaeshi list still other traits and characteristics not depicted here, so feel free to write your own themes and motifs in addition to mine.

Enjoy!

-*G.P. Richards*

[Anatomy of Japanese Folk Monsters](http://pinktentacle.com/2009/10/anatomy-of-japanese-folk-monsters/)

[yokai.com/makuragaeshi](http://yokai.com/makuragaeshi/)

Theme A

<https://youtu.be/6T0D3hF8BKE>

Theme B

https://youtu.be/11gRZqYK-1U

Theme C

https://youtu.be/iQ-0p8oSlLw

Theme D

https://youtu.be/OxPoCW3u2w8

Theme E

<https://youtu.be/b0Xa1gOaV8g>

Whole Thing (Even if you don’t want)

https://youtu.be/aRh-9BXPiek