

# Kanon カノン

RMS — おたく

**It's winter again and while there are many examples of anime with a fetish for snow, the one that immediately springs to mind is Kanon in its 2006/07 instantiation.**

Regular readers of this column might recognize the title from my review of *Air*, and indeed *Kanon* is also animated by Kyoto Animation, based on a visual novel / eroge[1] produced by Key, and is the winter contribution to their series of seasonal anime (where *Air* is summer, *Clannad* is spring, and apparently no one cares about autumn).

That already does not bode well for what is yet to come. And yes, *Kanon* also features a charmingly sluggish and uninspired male which the viewer should be easily able to identify with, who returns to his hometown and runs right into old and new female acquaintances, female classmates and so on, which all suffer from some degree of plot-convenient, never doubted, fridge-logical[2] amnesia, supplying the audience with an ample harem of characters to support.

As the snow begins to fall onto the lovely imaginary town, and the background artists swing their pens around in a frenzy to create the scenery porn that the anime is so famous for, the memories start coming back to our protagonist and his companions. Through many a flashback, character development takes place which no one would have thought possible at the be-

ginning of this seemingly plotless and generic moe-fest, and rather elegantly so. If there's not a tear in your eye by the end of the show, there's something seriously wrong with you, even if you hated every single character.

In case you are wondering about the show's curious title, it refers to its second partiality besides snow: using Pachelbel's *Canon in D* as a music cue. This already sounds like the worst idea since bread that you have to slice yourself, and works even worse in practice. Thankfully, the tune degrades to pure muzak after your consciousness has gotten used to it.

Overall, while the anime has its many flaws, the scenery is still beautiful, the characters lively and relatable (though painfully moe) and if you have any weak spot for tear-jerking stories set in lovely amounts of snow, you might find it actually enjoyable.

*Kanon* is copyrighted by Kyoto Animation and licensed by Funimation (USA). 

## Links

[1] <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eroge>

[2] <http://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/Main/FridgeLogic>