



Koto A Traditional Instrument In Contemporary Japan

Roy Starrs



Koto A Traditional Instrument In Contemporary Japan:

The Koto Henry Mabley Johnson, 2004 Henry Johnson is an ethnomusicologist at the University of Otago New Zealand where he teaches and undertakes research in Ethnomusicology and Asian Studies **Focus: Music in Contemporary Japan** Jennifer Milioto Matsue, 2015-07-16 *Focus Music in Contemporary Japan* explores a diversity of musics performed in Japan today ranging from folk song to classical music the songs of geisha to the screaming of underground rock with a specific look at the increasingly popular world of taiko ensemble drumming Discussion of contemporary musical practice is situated within broader frames of musical and sociopolitical history processes of globalization and cosmopolitanism and the continued search for Japanese identity through artistic expression It explores how the Japanese have long negotiated cultural identity through musical practice in three parts Part I Japanese Music and Culture provides an overview of the key characteristics of Japanese culture that inform musical performance such as the attitude towards the natural environment changes in ruling powers dominant religious forms and historical processes of cultural exchange Part II Sounding Japan describes the elements that distinguish traditional Japanese music and then explores how music has changed in the modern era under the influence of Western music and ideology Part III Focusing In Identity Meaning and Japanese Drumming in Kyoto is based on fieldwork with musicians and explores the position of Japanese drumming within Kyoto It focuses on four case studies that paint a vivid picture of each respective site the music that is practiced and the pedagogy and creative processes of each group The downloadable resources include examples of Japanese music that illustrate specific elements and key genres introduced in the text A companion website includes additional audio visual sources discussed in detail in the text Jennifer Milioto Matsue is an Associate Professor at Union College and specializes in modern Japanese music and culture

Handbook of Japanese Music in the Modern Era Henry Johnson, 2023-11-20 Exploring an array of captivating topics from hybridized Buddhist music to AI singers this book introduces Japanese music in the modern era The twenty five chapters show how cultural change from the late nineteenth century to the present day has had a profound impact on the Japanese musical landscape including the recontextualization and transformation of traditional genres and the widespread adoption of Western musical practices ranging from classical music to hip hop The contributors offer representative case studies within the themes of Foundations Heritage Institutions and Hybridities examining both musical styles that originated in earlier times and distinctly localized or Japanized musical forms **Music in the Making of Modern Japan** Kei Hibino, Barnaby Ralph, Henry Johnson, 2021-07-29 This volume explores the notion of affective media within and across different arts in Japan with a primary focus on music whether as standalone product or connected to other genres such as theatre and photography The volume explores the Japanese reception of this affective media its transformation and subsequent cultural flow Moving from a discussion of early encounters with the West through Jesuits and others the contributors primarily consider the role of music in the nineteenth twentieth and twenty first centuries With ten original

chapters the volume covers a wealth of themes from education koto music guitar making avant garde recorder works musicals and rock photography to interviews with contemporary performers in jazz modern rock and J pop Innovative and fascinating the book provides rich new insights and material to all those interested in Japanese musical culture

Understanding Japanese Society Joy Hendry, 2019-07-09 In this welcome brand new fifth edition of the bestselling textbook *Understanding Japanese Society* Joy Hendry takes the reader into the heart of Japanese life Providing a clear and accessible introduction to Japanese ways of thinking which does not require any previous knowledge of the country this book explores Japanese society through the worlds of home work play religion and ritual covering a full range of life experiences from childhood to old age It also examines the diversity of people living in Japan the effects of a growing number of new immigrants and role of the longest standing Japanese prime minister Shinzo Abe Fully updated revised and expanded the fifth edition contains new material on the continued effects of the earthquake tsunami and nuclear disasters of 2011 local examples of care for nature and the environment new perspectives on the role of women Japan's place in the context of globalisation Each chapter in this new edition also includes an exciting insert from scholars in the field based on new and emerging research This book will be invaluable to all students studying Japan It will also enlighten those travellers and business people wishing to gain an understanding of Japanese people

Rethinking Japanese Modernism Roy Starrs, 2011-10-14 Edited by Roy Starrs this collection of essays by an international group of leading Japan scholars presents new research and thinking on Japanese modernism a topic that has been increasingly recognized in recent years to be key to an understanding of contemporary Japanese culture and society By adopting an open multidisciplinary and transnational approach to this multifaceted topic the book sheds new light both on the specific achievements and on the often unexpected interrelationships of the writers artists and thinkers who helped to define the Japanese version of modernism and modernity Specific topics addressed include the literary modernism of major writers such as Akutagawa Kawabata Kajii Miyazawa and Murakami avant garde modernism in painting music theatre and in the performance art of Yoko Ono and the everyday modernism of popular culture and of new urban activities such as shopping and sports

Japan's Musical Tradition Miyuki Yoshikami, 2020-02-27 What makes Japanese music sound Japanese Each genre of Japan's pre Western music hogaku morphed from the preceding one with singing at its foundation In ancient Shinto prayers words of power recited in a prescribed cadence communicated veneration and community needs to the divine spirit kami From the prayers Japan's word based music evolved into increasingly more sophisticated recitations with biwa shamisen and koto accompaniment This examination reveals shortcomings in the typical interpretation of Japanese music from a pitch based Western perspective and carefully explores how the quintessential musical elements of singing instrumental accompaniment scale and format were transmitted from their Shinto inception through all of Japan's music Japan's culture with its unique iemoto system and teaching methods served to exactly replicate Japan's music for centuries Considering Japan's music in the context of its own

culture logic and sources is essential to gaining a clear understanding and appreciation of Japan's music and dissipating the mystery of the music's Japaneseness Greater enjoyment of the music inevitably follows *Composing Japanese Musical Modernity* Bonnie C. Wade, 2014-01-13 When we think of composers we usually envision an isolated artist separate from the orchestra someone alone in a study surrounded by staff paper and in Europe and America this image generally has been accurate For most of Japan's musical history however no such role existed composition and performance were deeply intertwined Only when Japan began to embrace Western culture in the late nineteenth century did the role of the composer emerge In *Composing Japanese Musical Modernity* Bonnie Wade uses an investigation of this new musical role to offer new insights not just into Japanese music but Japanese modernity at large and global cosmopolitan culture Wade examines the short history of the composer in Japanese society looking at the creative and economic opportunities that have sprung up around them or that they forged during Japan's astonishingly fast modernization She shows that modernist Japanese composers have not bought into the high modernist concept of the autonomous artist instead remaining connected to the people Articulating Japanese modernism in this way Wade tells a larger story of international musical life of the spaces in which tradition and modernity are able to meet and ultimately where modernity itself has been made *Performing Japan*, 2008-07-03 For the first time using an interdisciplinary theoretical and ethnographic approach the editors have brought together a rich collection of current research on contemporary Japanese performance practices Topics covered include theatre music art fashion and technology media architecture and tourism Well illustrated *Performing Japan* will provide added value in introductory courses on the Japanese language history or culture as well as Asian Studies in general In addition it offers valuable comparative references in the context of theatre music and dance classes which either introduce Japanese forms or focus entirely on the performing traditions of Japan The fourteen contributors include Joy hendry Roy Starrs Peter Eckersall Kimi Coaldrake Henry Johnson and Jerry C Jaffe **Musical Bows and Zithers along the Great Silk Road** Xiao Mei, Gisa Jähnichen, 2023-10-04 The musical bow is usually considered one of the earliest instruments in the history of instrumental development yet the validity of this view has not been proven In all likelihood it was one among many other early instruments created to produce sound The same can be said in general for all the simple chordophones called zithers of which the musical bow is one type The papers collected in this volume have been initially presented at the International Council for Traditional Music Colloquium ICTM held in Shanghai in December 2022 They try to challenge some previous depictions of instrumental development and one-sided explanations of musical histories They specifically focus on exploring the interrelationship between instrumental development and the availability of natural resources in particular geographical regions While the papers at the colloquium focused on sound production they also explored the role of ethnomusicology as a discipline in guiding local decision making and interregional research co-operation **The Ashgate Research Companion to Japanese Music** David W. Hughes, 2017-02-03 Music is a frequently neglected aspect of Japanese

culture It is in fact a highly problematic area as the Japanese actively introduced Western music into their modern education system in the Meiji period 1868 1911 creating westernized melodies and instrumental instruction for Japanese children from kindergarten upwards As a result most Japanese now have a far greater familiarity with Western or westernized music than with traditional Japanese music Traditional or classical Japanese music has become somewhat ghettoized often known and practised only by small groups of people in social structures which have survived since the pre modern era Such marginalization of Japanese music is one of the less recognized costs of Japan s modernization On the other hand music in its westernized and modernized forms has an extremely important place in Japanese culture and society Beethoven s Ninth Symphony for example being so widely known and performed that it is arguably part of contemporary Japanese popular and mass culture Japan has become a world leader in the mass production of Western musical instruments and in innovative methodologies of music education Yamaha and Suzuki More recently the Japanese craze of karaoke as a musical entertainment and as musical hardware has made an impact on the leisure and popular culture of many countries in Asia Europe and the Americas This is the first book to cover in detail all genres including court music Buddhist chant theatre music chamber ensemble music and folk music as well as contemporary music and the connections between music and society in various periods The book is a collaborative effort involving both Japanese and English speaking authors and was conceived by the editors to form a balanced approach that comprehensively treats the full range of Japanese musical culture

The Tokugawa World Gary P. Leupp, De-min Tao, 2021-09-20 With over 60 contributions The Tokugawa World presents the latest scholarship on early modern Japan from an international team of specialists in a volume that is unmatched in its breadth and scope In its early modern period under the Tokugawa shoguns Japan was a world apart For over two centuries the shogun s subjects were forbidden to travel abroad and few outsiders were admitted Yet in this period Japan evolved as a nascent capitalist society that could rapidly adjust to its incorporation into the world system after its forced opening in the 1850s The Tokugawa World demonstrates how Japan s early modern society took shape and evolved a world of low and high cultures comic books and Confucian academies soba restaurants and imperial music recitals rigid enforcement of social hierarchy yet also ongoing resistance to class oppression A world of outcasts puppeteers herbal doctors samurai officials businesswomen scientists scholars blind lutenists peasant rebels tea masters sumo wrestlers and wage workers Covering a variety of features of the Tokugawa world including the physical landscape economy art and literature religion and thought and education and science this volume is essential reading for all students and scholars of early modern Japan *Flute and Shakuhachi* Jo Kondo, J. Benitez, 2020-03-09 First Published in 1994 In their quest for new sound materials avant garde musicians often produce sounds which accidentally bear a strong resemblance to traditional instruments While conventional Western instruments have taken on a functional role instruments such as the shakuhachi are still closely associated with their cultural religious and historical roots The colorful and unique shakuhachi has become the most widely known and used

Japanese instrument This collection provides a comprehensive historical overview of the shakuhachi its technical aspects and its relationship to the flute **Asian Futures, Asian Traditions** Edwina Palmer,2021-10-01 To what extent are our futures likely to be determined by our traditions from the past Asian Futures Asian Traditions is a collection of conference papers by scholars of Asian Studies who explore the topics of continuity and change in Asian societies through essays in history politics gender studies language literature film performance and music Recurring among the themes of the book are the invention and reinvention of tradition nostalgia issues of national and ethnic identity colonial heritage nationalism reform and the effects of globalizing economies Both the power and the precariousness of several Asian economies are revealed in studies of the Asian Economic Crisis of the late 1990s and the conversion of some communist states to market socialism

Instrumental Lives Helen Rees,2024-07-23 The musical instruments of East and Southeast Asia enjoy increasing recognition as parts of humanity s intangible cultural heritage Helen Rees edits a collection that offers vibrant new ways to link these objects to their materials of manufacture the surrounding environment the social networks they form and help sustain and the wider ethnic or national imagination Rees organizes the essays to reflect three angles of inquiry The first section explores the characteristics and social roles of various categories of instruments including the koto and an extinct Balinese wooden clapper In section two essayists focus on the life stories of individual instruments ranging from an heirloom Chinese qin to end blown flutes in rural western Mongolia Essays in the third section examine the ethics and other issues that surround instrument collections but also show how collecting is a dynamic process that transforms an instrument s habitat and social roles Original and expert Instrumental Lives brings a new understanding of how musical instruments interact with their environments and societies Contributors Supeena Insee Adler Marie Pierre Lissor Terauchi Naoko Jennifer C Post Helen Rees Xiao Mei Tyler Yamin and Bell Yung *Japanese Cultural Nationalism* Roy Starrs,2021-10-01 Based on the premise that Japanese cultural nationalism has been and is a major cultural historical force throughout the Asia Pacific this book has dual focus Part 1 explores Japanese literature philosophy education politics diplomacy music Part 2 extends Japanese role to Asia Pacific at large Part One explores significant and influential expressions of cultural nationalism in Japanese literature philosophy education politics diplomacy music and popular culture Part Two widens the focus to Asia Pacific at large and examines the role of Japanese cultural nationalist discourse in the island nation s relations with its regional neighbours China being the main focus Topics include Meiji racial theory the varieties of Japanese imperialist ideology nationalist attitudes towards China Kyoto School Sinology resistance to foreign yakozuna in sumo wrestling Jiuta Sōkyoku Lyrics and Explanations Christopher Yohmei Blasdel,2024-05-09 Jiuta S kyoku Lyrics and Explanations is a compendium of seventy three representative songs from the well known genre of traditional Japanese Edo period sankyoku ensemble music Including extensive annotations along with commentaries and notes on their musical and performative aspects the collection begins with an overview which traces the history of the jiuta s kyoku genre and the various socio

political influences at work in its formation The translations and analyses are followed by a substantive glossary and bibliography allowing for a deeper understanding of both the literary and musical aspects of jiuta s kyoku compositions Jiuta S kyoku Lyrics and Explanations is a comprehensive anthology that will be of great interest to researchers including ethnomusicologists Japanese studies scholars and poetry lovers who are fascinated with the literary and musical impact of the Edo period

Music around the World Andrew R. Martin,Matthew Mihalka Ph.D.,2020-09-08 With entries on topics ranging from non Western instruments to distinctive rhythms of music from various countries this one stop resource on global music also promotes appreciation of other countries and cultural groups A perfect resource for students and music enthusiasts alike this expansive three volume set provides readers with multidisciplinary perspectives on the music of countries and ethnic groups from around the globe Students will find *Music around the World* A Global Encyclopedia accessible and useful in their research not only for music history and music appreciation classes but also for geography social studies language studies and anthropology Additionally general readers will find the books appealing and an invaluable general reference on world music The volumes cover all world regions including the Americas Europe Africa and the Middle East and Asia and the Pacific promoting a geographic understanding and appreciation of global music Entries are arranged alphabetically A preface explains the scope of the set as well as how to use the encyclopedia followed by a brief history of traditional music and important current influences of music in each particular world region

Musical Performance in the Diaspora Tina K Ramnarine,2013-10-18 This book illustrates how ethnographic investigation of musical performances might contribute to the analysis of diaspora It embraces diverse examples such as mourning and cultures of survival amongst Aboriginal and Jewish communities in Australia remembering a Kazakh homeland in Western Mongolia celebrating Diwali in New Zealand and the circulation of musical performances in Mozambique Portugal and the UK Some of the topics discussed in *Musical Performance in the Diaspora* include the expression and shaping of diasporic and postcolonial identities through performance musical memory in diasporic contexts the geographies of performance the politics of new forms of diasporic music making This book presents a rich array of theoretical approaches and wide ranging ethnographic case studies to reconsider and challenge discourses that have favoured uncritical notions of diasporic hybridity and to broaden current analyses of performance in the diaspora

Traditional craftsmanship in Japan Hermann Candahashi,2024-01-23 Dear readers I am pleased to present to you after a longer time of research and preparation my new book on Japanese craftsmanship Like the creations within it this book adheres to the principle of Wabi Sabi and cannot illuminate all facets and characteristics of this vast realm of Japanese traditions Nevertheless it may be suitable to inspire you to further explore aspects of these fascinating art forms If I succeed in this with you I would have achieved my goal Japanese craftsmanship possesses the unique ability to blend artistry and functionality It spans from the traditional tea ceremony to intricately crafted ceramics from finely carved woodwork to breathtaking textiles These traditions are passed down from generation to

generation serving as expressions not only of skill but also of deep cultural and religious significance. Imperfection in them is not seen as failure as it might be in Western countries but rather as a path to a rarely attained perfection. A key aspect of Japanese craftsmanship is the reverence for nature and simplicity. Many artisans draw inspiration from nature, whether it be the elegant line of a bonsai tree or the flowing movement of a koi fish. This connection to nature is reflected not only in the motifs but also in the materials used. Wood, bamboo, paper, and silk often form the foundation for these artistic creations. The transmission of craftsmanship occurs in specialized workshops where masters of their craft pass on their skills to apprentices. These apprenticeships are characterized by dedication, discipline, and a profound respect for the craft. Apprentices not only learn the technical skills but also the philosophy behind each technique. It is this fusion of technique and spirituality that makes Japanese craftsmanship truly unique. One of the most fascinating examples of traditional craftsmanship in Japan is the art of Kintsugi, the repair of ceramics with a mixture of gold or silver lacquer. Instead of hiding the breakages, they are accentuated with precious metals, adding not only an aesthetic element but also conveying a philosophical message: the beauty of repair and the appreciation for the impermanent. In the upcoming chapters, we will delve into the various facets of Japanese craftsmanship, from the intricate Noh masks to the precise artistry of Samurai swords. Join us on a journey through centuries of tradition and innovation as we explore the legacy of Japanese craftsmanship. The collaboration between tradition and innovation is crucial to make craftsmanship sustainable. Artisans must be able to preserve their traditions while also allowing space for creative developments and contemporary interpretations. This dynamic exchange between the old and the new is vital to strengthen craftsmanship for the challenges of the modern world. Overall, the care of Japanese craftsmanship is a multidimensional approach based on education, preservation, innovation, and societal appreciation. Only through these comprehensive efforts can the rich tradition of Japanese craftsmanship be preserved for future generations. It is an investment in the cultural identity that defines the unique character of Japan. Hermann Candahashi

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