

Religious Music

Week 2
Shinto Music
神道音楽
(しんとうおんがく)

Native Japanese Dance and Songs Ancient Japanese Music

Jomon period (ca.10,500-ca. 300B.C.)

Pots probably used as drums with stretched animal skins

Pipes and bells made of stone or earthenware

Yayoi period (300BC-300AD)

doutaku (銅鐸・どうたく)
thin bronze bell



Haniwa (埴輪・はにわ)
hollow clay figure

wagon (和琴・わごん)
yamatogoto (大和琴・やまとごと)



Left: Male Haniwa with drum, Kofun period, 6th century

Center: Dancing Female Haniwa with percussion Instrument, Kofun period, 6th century

Right: Haniwa Figure with drum, Kofun period, 6th century

Male Haniwa Playing wagon, Kofun period, 6th century (Private collection)

Photos: Tokyo National Museum

Shinto Shrine
神社・じんじゃ



Gate /torii (鳥居)

1. Bow once in front of the torii before entering



2. Wash (purify) your hands and mouth with a ladle

3. Toss a coin in the offertory chest and rattle the bell



4. Bow twice, clap twice and pray



5. Bow once before leaving

Buddhism
Temple
お寺・おてら

incense burner



Kagura(god music) in the palace

1. kagura uta (kagura song)
2. azuma asobi (eastern entertainment)
3. oonaobi uta (night duty songs)
4. yamato uta (Yamato songs)
5. oouta (big songs)
6. tauta (field songs)
- *7. kumeuta (palace guard songs)

**the oldest Japanese dance and song in the Emperor
Jinmu era. Heroic dance*

8. Ruika (funeral songs)

神楽歌・かぐらうた
東あそび・あずまあそび
大直日歌・おおなおびうた
倭歌・やまとうた
大歌・おおうた
田歌・たうた
久米歌・くめうた

誅歌・るいか

Poetry and Musical forms in kagura

Two types of poetry in kagura:

- torimono (採物): songs meant to praise the gods or seek their aid
- saibari (前張): songs used to entertain the gods.

The accompaniment is basically the same:

- a small ensemble is used consisting one to four instruments
- solos, duets, and trios

The musical style is quite similar but the words are different.

Many of the kagura genres include dance.



Six-stringed zither
wagon 和琴



Wagon is one of the few completely indigenous instruments of Japan.



Flute
kagurabue 神楽笛



Flute
hichiriki ひちりき

Big taiko drum
Oodaiko 大太鼓



Taiko drum 太鼓



Tsuzumi drum
tsuzumi 鼓



Miko dance
mikomai 巫女舞



Miko dance with a special white costume
hakubyoushi 白拍子



Cymbal with a mallet
atarigane 当たり鉦

Kagura bells
Kagura suzu 神楽鈴
(miko suzu)



Japanese rattles
binsasara びんささら
(sasara)



Buddhism Music

仏教音楽
(ぶっきょうおんがく)

Japanese music and public entertainment would not exist without Buddhism music, Shōmyō as observed today. Buddhism is the root of Japanese culture.



Shōmyō (声明・しょうみょう)

What is shōmyō ?

Shōmyō are vocal music which Buddhist priests chant with melodies over sutras in the Buddhist services or other occasions. It's different from simply reciting sutras.

Buddhism was introduced to Japan the primary sources from China (through Baekje of Korea) (5AD) . Assumably shōmyō were introduced at the same time though there is no conclusive evidence.

Nara period: shōmyō were officially appeared

Heian period: shōmyō were established by two Buddhist priests

Shingon shōmyō → Kukai (真言声明 → 空海)

Tendai shōmyō → En'nin (天台声明 → 円仁)

The chants of the two sects seemed not so different at that time but the sects resulted in many offshoots and changed the styles over the centuries. As a result, shōmyō turned into the funeral hymns from paean today.

Notes: Buddhism introduced to China from India (1C BC and 1 AD) →The original shōmyō were born in Yushan (Fish Mountain/魚山), China (3AD). Then, Buddhism introduced to Korea (3AD).

Chanting

1. Master's solo *always a soloist starts
2. A member's solo
3. Taken over by the group
4. Alternation of the solo and group
5. Juxtaposition of different shomyo

Shōmyō training: avoid the four types of obnoxious(evil) voice (四種の悪声)

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Mournful voice (亡国の声) | singing with sorrow and grief (voice of a ruined country) |
| 2. Unskillful voice (人法不和の声) | singing with out of tune (voice of disharmony between human and Buddhism doctrine) |
| 3. Weak voice (短命病患の声) | singing weakly like a sick infant (voice of a illness and short life) |
| 4. Hoarse voice (天魔の声) | singing loudly and screaming (voice of evil spirits) |

Also, you will fail to learn the profound beauty of shōmyō if you indulge yourself in your talent or are too proud of your voice. It takes 30 years (!) to master

Shōmyō is chanted in:

- a. Hōe (法会) →the gatherings for Buddhist services at a temple
Program : shōmyō (introduction) - shōmyō(adoring) - shōmyō(main part) - shōmyō (ending)
- b. Hōyō (法要) →the specific Buddhist ceremonies such as praying for someone’s safety
Program: shōmyō – prayer - chanting sutras

Language:

Originally the chanting of Buddhist texts were written in Sanskrit and Chinese. Both have the same content. The texts and shōmyō were translated into Japanese.

Types of shōmyō and languages:

- a. Hon- shōmyō (本 real shōmyō)→ specifically only hon-shōmyō is called shōmyō. (Sanskrit/Chinese/Japanese)
 - b. Zatsu- shōmyō(雑 miscellaneous shōmyō) → shōmyō created in Japan after the Heian period (Japanese)
- *Bukkyo shōmyō → Buddhist chants not regarded as shōmyō (Japanese)



Buddhist bell
banshō 晩鐘



big bell
Oogane/bonshō 大鐘・梵鐘



cymbals
myōhachi 妙鉢



large wooden board with a mallet
bangi 板木



fan drum
uchiwadaiko うちわ太鼓



Knobbed oriental gong
dora/wadora 銅鑼・和銅鑼



wooded, fish-mouthed slit gong
mokugyo (木魚)



small, hanging, fish-mouthed chime made of bronze
Kei/keisu 馨 (馨子)



bowl-shaped bell
Rin/Kin 鈴



hand bell
Rei · 鈴

Homework #1 2/12 (Tu)

Describe the differences between Shinto and Buddhism music characteristics including instruments.