

雅楽 Gagaku

Week 3

雅楽 Gagaku (Heian period 979-1185)

Japanese native music was called "utamai" (song-dance)

China: banquet music

Korean Peninsula: "Three Korean music", kokurigaku, shiragigaku, and kudaragaku

Other countries: India (tenjingaku) and Vietnam (rinyugaku)

Ooutadokoro for native gagaku was established(816)

Music system reform begins (833-850)

Gagaku was completely established(894)

Only Japanese gagaku has been preserved without interruption.

The oldest extant orchestra art music and one of the most unique forms of music in the world.

Formation of Gagaku

Kangen an instrumental ensemble

16 musicians with eight types of musical instruments

3 winds; 2 strings; 3 percussive instruments

90 works

Bugaku a dance accompanied by instruments or songs

a. kuniburi no utamai: ancient ritual song and dance in court/with no mask

b. uho no mai (right side): based on music from Korean Peninsula/masks rarely used/Greenish

c. saho no mai(left side): based on togaku from China/masks often used/Reddish

50 works

Kayo songs in the gagaku style accompanied by gagaku instruments

a. saibara: common people's songs/ clear 4/4 time

b. roei: Chinese poems pronounced in or translated into Japanese/ free rhythm

40 songs

3 winds 2 strings 3 drums



Read the reading assignment



Gakuso (so no koto)
Wagon
Gaku biwa



San'no tsuzumi



Kakko



Shōko



Tsuridaiko



Hichiriki
(double-reed)



Shō



Komabue
Ryuteki
Kagurabue



The Tale of Genji
Murasaki Shikibu

源氏物語
紫式部



early 11th century
the world's first novel
54 chapters
the lifestyle of high courtiers during the Heian period
"Genji", Hikaru Genji (Shining Genji)

Gagaku:
Kangen, bugaku, saibara, chanting, and folk songs

Homework #2
2/19 (Tu)

Describe how gagaku was introduced, reformed, and survived until today.

