

Music of Asia

Music of Japan and Its Cultural and Musical Traits

Musical Periods

- Yayoi period (c. 300 BCE–c. 250 CE)
- Tumulus period (c. 250–c. 500 CE)
- Nara period (710–784)
- Heian period (794–1185)
- Kamakura period (1192–1333)
- Muromachi period (1338–1573)
- Tokugawa (also called Edo) period (1603–1867)
- Meiji era (1868–1912)

Tonal System

- The complete tonal system of both court and religious music consists of the 12 tones found in the Chinese system
- 4 scales - ryo, ritsu, yo, in
 - The first two show that ancient Japanese music followed the East Asian tradition of using two seven-tone scales, each with a pentatonic core

Musical Notation

- Traditional is known as hogaku
- uses pentatonic scale
- timbre - unpitched sounds
- Melodies differ per instrument & tradition
- Rhythm - flexible pulse
- Form - based on jo-ha-kyu
 - Jo (slow intro)
 - Ha (build tempo or development)
 - Kyu (rush tempo, then slowing at end)

Types of Music and Ensembles

- Gagaku Music
 - Elegant music protected in the imperial court for over 1000 years, retains the style, sound, and music of ancient Japan

- Gagaku Ensemble
 - Flute, Shawm, Sho, Gong, Tsuru Daiko, Kakko, Biwa, Koto
- Shakuhachi Music
- Minyo (Folk Song)
 - Accompanied everyday activities; not as relevant now; more standardized
 - uses shamisen to play in stead pulse with flexible vocal rhythm
- Taiko (Drum Ensemble)
 - Common in religious ceremonies or local festivals
 - relatively new tradition
 - Professing austere lifestyle + synchronized music => gender inclusive performances, flair in showmanship
 - Okedo taiko (barrel bodied drum)
 - Shime taiko
 - Shrine drums
 - Nagado taiko (large bodied drum)
 - Hirado taiko (wide bodied drum)
 - Cymbals
 - Flutes
- Popular Music
 - Enka composers - more upbeat and faster and optimistic

Instruments

- Koto
 - 13 string board zither with moveable bridges
- Shakuhachi
 - Bamboo flute, 4 holes front, 1 hole back
 - Allows for versatility in pitch and tone quality
- Shamisen
 - 3 string long necked lute, producing song like banjo
 - associated with austere spirituality and meditation, drama for kabuki theater
 - covered with snakeskin, cat skin, or dog skin, wooden box roughly square in shape

Music of China and Its Cultural and Musical Traits

Musical Periods/Dynasty

- Dynastic China (1122 – 1911 BCE)
 - well developed musical culture as early as Zhou dynasty
- Republic of China (1912 – 1949)
- People's Republic of China (1949 – Now)

Traditional Musical Styles of the Culture

- Traditional - music before 1911
 - 5 note scale
 - solo instruments or small plucked + bowed string instrument ensembles
 - Vocal
 - Traditionally thin, non resonant voice, usually solo
 - Developed from sung poems and verses accompanied by music
 - melodic rather than harmonic
- Chinese opera
 - entertain aristocracy => public entertainment
 - guttural, high pitched vocals
 - string + percussion instruments
- Folk Music
 - Han folk music is at weddings and funerals
 - oboe, percussive ensembles
- National Music
 - modern form of trad music
 - grand presentation with orchestra
 - broadcast on radio and tv
 - encourage national pride
 - promoted by govt
- Regional music
 - many ethnic groups besides Han, mostly in SE and NW
 - Tibetans, Russians, Uyghurs, Manchus, Zhuang, Dai, Naxi, Miao, Wa, Yi, Lisu, Mongolians

Instruments

- Traditional
 - Bamboo pipes and qin are the oldest instruments - divided into groups based on material (skin, gourd, wood, silk, earth/clay, metal, stone)
- Woodwind and percussion
 - dizi, sheng, paigu, gong, paixiao, guan, bells, and cymbals •
- Bowed strings
 - erhu, zhonghu, dahu, banhu, jinghu, gaohu, gehu, yehu, cizhonghu, diyingehu, and leiqin
- Plucked and struck strings
 - guqin, sanxian, yangqin, guzheng, ruan, konghou, liuqin, pipa, and zhu

Music of Korea and Its Cultural and Musical Traits

Shaman Music

- Communication with unseen world by a shaman in a state of trance
- Korea maintains strong Shamanism despite foreign religious adoption (buddhism, confucianism, christianity)
- A female korean shaman (mudang) may use many combos of musical instruments
- Percussion - small flat gong, changoo/janggu drum
- Wind - flutes, double reeds, fiddles

Court Instrumental Music

- Organization of courts and intro of chinese religion resulted in importance of the importation of elements of Chinese music
- most of this info derived from chinese and korean historical books and administrative documents
- Kayagum - favorite native instrument
 - in all levels of music and dance
- Sanjo Virtuoso solo repertoire

Vocal Music

- Important part of korean tradition
- Kagok
 - 26 five-section solo songs + duet, longest and rarest old forms
- Sijo - 3 line form of classic korean poetry - sung to solo accompaniment of hourglass drum
- Kasa
 - narrative song form in which voice is accompanied by flute and drum

Instruments