

Periodicals on Japanese Traditional Music published before 1945 in Japan



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Research Objectives

- We lack of comprehensive reference materials for Japanese music periodicals, especially from the prewar era
- Key objectives
 - To compile a list of pre-1945 Japanese music periodicals
 - To examine their editorial policies, publication status, and article content
 - To identify trends in publication and preservation
 - To lay a foundation for future bibliographic and archival studies in musicology

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Sources & Scope

- Sources
 - The *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* (Japanese edition)
 - Shu-Ji Lin's bibliography (FAM vol. 35, no.2) based on Kishimoto's revisions (FAM vol. 36, no. 1)
 - Other reference sources on Japanese traditional music and theater
- Research scope
 - Publications issued before 1945 and held by public institutions.
 - Newspapers and special issues are excluded

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Methodology

- To locate periodicals checked at
 - CiNii Books: union catalog database for academic libraries
 - NDL Search: National Diet Library catalog
 - WINE: Waseda University Library catalog
 - KOSMOS: Keio University Library catalog
 - Research Center of Classic Performing Arts at Kobe Women's University Library catalog
- To conduct a comprehensive examination on the oldest and latest issues of each periodical

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Detailed Checklist

- Bibliographic details
 - title, editor, publisher, year, format, page count, illustrations, publication frequency
- Publication status, issue availability
- Editorial policy extracted from forewords and editorial notes
- Article types
 - classified based on presence of citations or scholarly content
- Genre categorization based on reference book
 - Noh, Kabuki, Gagaku(court music), Joruri, Nagauta, Shakuhachi, Sokyoku, Biwagaku, Buddhism music, Folk music, Dance, Theater, Geino (popular music)
- Periodical types
 - Institutional bulletin, magazine, journal, newsletter

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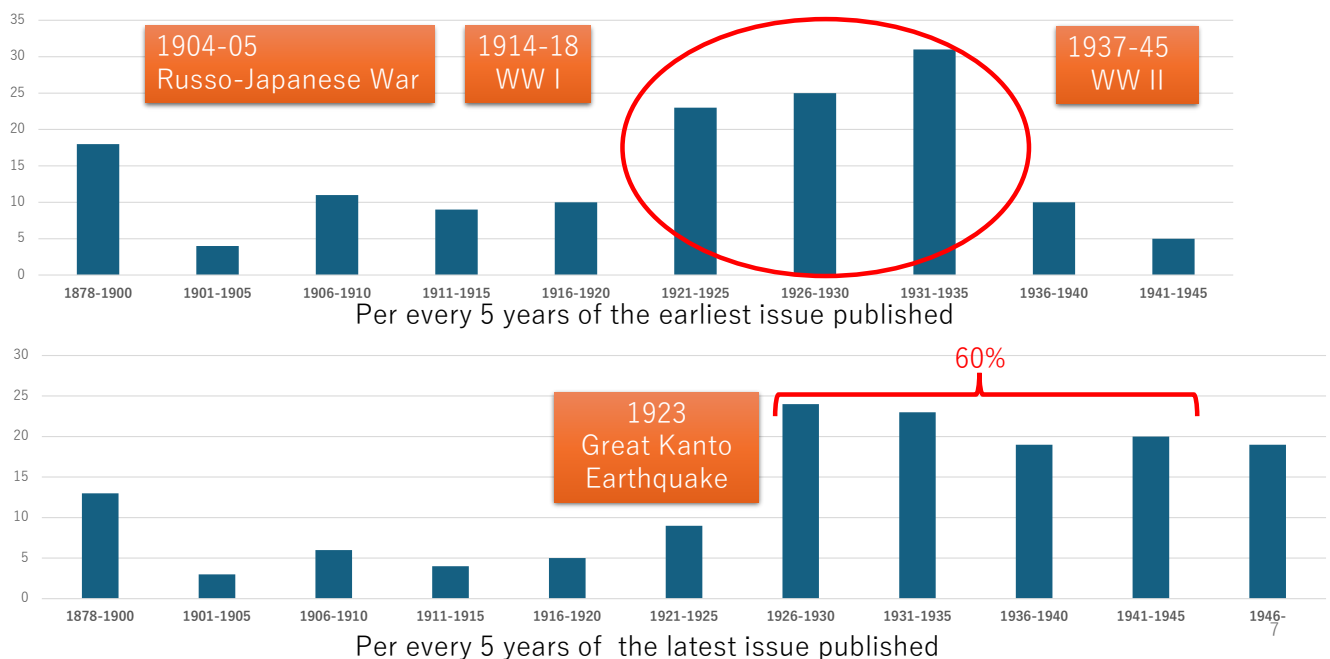
Survey Results – Overview

- Identified a total of **184 magazines**,
 - focused on **146** within the target period
 - 43 were listed only in NG
 - 19 only in LIN
 - 34 in both
 - 50 titles: newly discovered through this survey

Noh	12	Geino	5
Theater	11	Dance	4
Kabuki	6	Nagauta	1
Joruri	5	Koto music	1
Folk songs	5		

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Publication Number Transition



Publication Status

- Increase in periodicals launches during the 1920s and 30s, coinciding with Japan's expanding music scene.
- 142 titles were discontinued:
 - 59 titles (40.41%) ceased within 3 years
 - 101 titles (69.18%) discontinued within 10 years
 - 29 titles (19.86%) continued for over two decades
- 4 periodicals remain in issuing as of 2024
 - *Kanze* (Hinoki Shoten),
 - *Kanze* (Kanze-kai Kyoto Noh Theater)
 - *Toyo Ongaku Kenkyu*
 - *Hosho*
- Complete volumes available: 16 titles

Publication types

Type	Case	%
Institutional bulletin	44	30.14%
Magazine	74	50.68%
Journal	18	12.33%
Newsletter	10	6.85%
	146	100.00%

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Genre

Genre	case	%
Noh	35	23.97%
Kabuki	10	6.85%
Gagaku(court music)	1	0.68%
Joruri	13	8.90%
Nagauta	7	4.79%
Shakuhachi	4	2.74%
Sokyoku	3	2.05%
Biwagaku	2	1.37%
Buddhism music	1	0.68%
Folk music	14	9.59%
Dance	10	6.85%
Theater	23	15.75%
Geino	23	15.75%

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Results - Historical Context

- 劇場珍報 "Theater News" and俳優評判記 "Actor Reviews" were first published in 1878

Cf. 歌舞伎新報 "Kabuki News" in 1879 in New Grove

- Periodicals continuously published right after the above titles
 - 演劇雑誌 "Theater Magazine" (1880), 親釜集 "Oyagama Collection" (1880), 劇場真報 "Theater True News" (1883), 演劇新報 "Theater News" (1884), 大阪歌舞伎新報 "Osaka Kabuki News" (1886), 風俗画報 "Folklore" (1889), 大阪演劇詳報 "Osaka Theater Detailed News" (1891), 源氏節 "Genji Melody" (1892)

Cf. no publication until 1893 in New Grove

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Discussion

- Publication surged during the "wartime bubble" from 1915 to the early 1930s
- Declined during major crises such as the Great Kanto Earthquake (1923) and World War II
- Periodicals merged and were discontinued due to state censorship and material shortages during WW II
 - 能楽 "Nohgaku" merged with 観世 "Kanze" 宝生 "Hosho" 喜多 "Kita" 金剛 "Kongo" 謡曲界 "Yokyoku-kai."
 - 演劇界 "Engeki-kai" merged with 演藝畫報 "Engei Gahō", 東寶 "Tōhō" 國民演劇 "Kokumin Engeki", 現代演劇 "Gendai Engeki", 寶塚歌劇 "Takarazuka Kageki"



Noh Stage

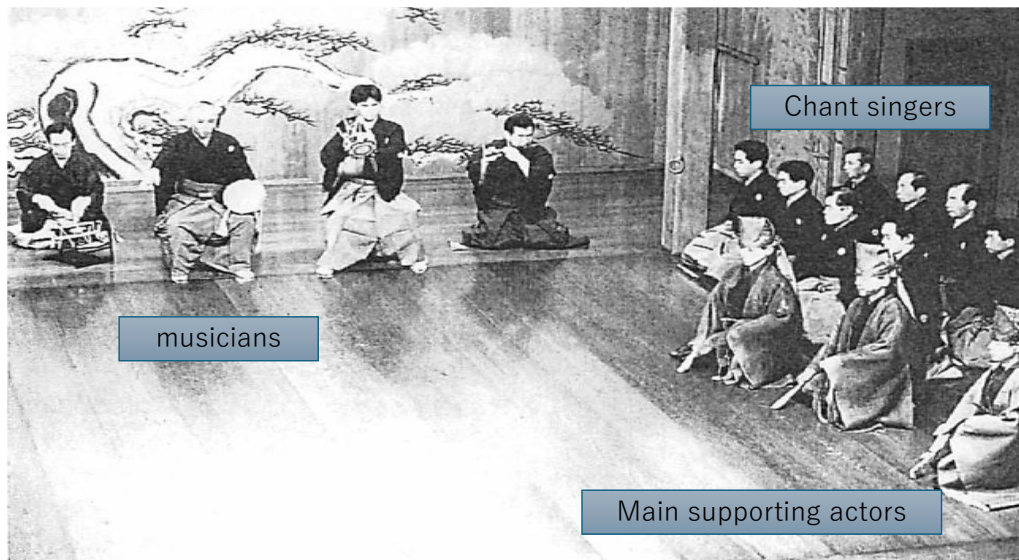


図3 能舞台での地謡と囃子方。舞台向って右に二列に並ぶ地謡と、舞台後方に右から能管、小鼓、大鼓、太鼓と位置する囃子方。地謡の前に座しているのはシテの出現を待つワキとワキツレ。

©MNI 参照『はじめての音楽史』p.148-149

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- The lifespan of a periodical is influenced by the personal circumstances of its editors
ex. 能楽 Nohgaku
- Theater-related periodicals are mostly photogravure
ex. 演藝画報 Engei-Gahō (Theater magazine)
- Periodicals related to folk music tend to be academically oriented
ex. 郷土舞踊と民謡 Kyodobuyo to Minyo (Folk dance and folk songs)

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Future work

- Two major issues must be considered in future studies:
 - **Interdisciplinary Overlap**
Music research in Japan often intersects with literature and theater studies, so periodical classification requires interdisciplinary attention.
 - **Terminological Ambiguity**
Terms like "performing arts" vary widely in usage, making standardized categorization difficult.
- Extend this survey to **post-1945 periodicals**
- Include publications related to **Western music**
- Analyze contents more deeply, focusing on editorial strategies and article types

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