

# **Japanese Band Literature: Its Musical, Educational, and Cultural Value for American Band Programs**

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## **How/why is it different from American wind music? : A Historical Overview**

In Japan, school band activity is extracurricular, so both directors and students are volunteers.

Virtually all school bands regard concert contest as an annual priority. Because they are interested in advancing their performance skills, they will select challenging pieces and devote several months' rehearsal to contest preparation. Consequently, use of "educational" band literature is limited in Japan, though directors think that band music should be well-conceived even if it is demanding.

Universities and colleges rarely have educational programs for prospective band directors. Therefore, many directors have little knowledge of band pedagogy and literature. Generally, contest adjudicators have limited exposure to band repertoire as most are "classic trained" musicians. As a result, transcriptions are frequently performed at contests in Japan.

After World War II, band literature and educational ideas were introduced to Japan from the United States. From the 1950s to the 70s, an "original band piece" meant that it was American band music.

In 1966, the All Japan Band Association (AJBA) began commissioning Japanese composers to write required (test) pieces for the All Japan Band Competition (AJBC).

In order to promote new band literature by Japanese composers, the AJBA had its first composition contest for AJBC test pieces in 1972.

The amount of Japanese compositions performed at band contests has been on the increase over the past decades in Japan. Today, band directors tend to prefer "affective" and "comprehensible" pieces that sound like film scores because they believe such music must be advantageous for contests.

## **The Diversity of Japanese Composition**

(1) Composers writing from Japanese musical tradition and culture

Kiyoshige Koyama (b. 1914)  
Hiroshi Ohguri (1918-1982)  
Tetsunosuke Kushida (b. 1935)

(2) Composers strongly influenced by Western musical ideas

Akira Miyoshi (b. 1933)  
Bin Kaneda (1935-2002)  
Hiroshi Hoshina (b. 1936)

(3) Composers exploring contemporary sound

Masato Tsuyuki (b. 1965)  
Fumio Tamura (b. 1968)  
Yoshio Nakahashi (b. 1978)

(4) A composer contributing to young bands

Naoya Wada (b. 1986)

(5) Composers who integrate compositional ideas and techniques

Toshio Mashima (b. 1949)  
Soichi Konagaya (b. 1949)  
Akira Toda (b. 1953)  
Masamicz Amano (b. 1957)  
Tomohiro Tatebe (b. 1957)  
Yo Goto (b. 1958)  
Yasuhide Ito (b. 1960)  
Toshinari Iijima (b. 1960)  
Shin'ya Takahashi (b. 1962)  
Jun Nagao (b. 1964)  
Eiji Suzuki (b. 1965)  
Chang Su Koh (b. 1970)  
Itaru Sakai (b. 1970)  
Hayato Hirose (b. 1974)  
Satoshi Yagisawa (b. 1975)

## What can be taught through performance music in band classrooms?

Rehearsals should be planned to attain specific goals that arise from each composition. The composition is both played and studied.<sup>1</sup>

School band directors have the opportunity to emphasize “the academic role” of bands by giving instruction not only in the performance skills and information needed to perform specific piece but also towards an understanding about the piece and music in general.<sup>2</sup>

## Compositions Useful as Materials for Educational Goals

### (1) To explore cultural issues

Yasuhide Ito, *Festal Scenes*

Yasuhide Ito, *Funa-Uta*

Bin Kaneda, *Warabe-Uta: Japanese Folk Song Suite*

Soichi Konagaya, *Japanese Tune*

Tetsunosuke Kushida, *Asuka*

Tetsunosuke Kushida, *Clouds in Collage*

Tetsunosuke Kushida, *Collage for Band: On Folk Songs from Tohoku District*

Tetsunosuke Kushida, *Ikaruga*

Kinya Matsuura, *Han-Nya*

Akira Toda, *Warabe*

Shin’ya Takahashi, *Jalan-jalan: Visions of Isle of the Gods*

Tomohiro Tatebe, *Suite on Celtic Folk Songs*

### (2) To understand formal structure

Bin Kaneda, *Passacaglia for Symphonic Band*

### (3) To learn lyrical style

Hayato Hirose, *Moment Musical*

Hiroshi Hoshina, *Fu-Mon (Dunes)*

Toshinari Iijima, *A Stroll by the Lakeside*

Yukiko Nishimura, *Star Ship*

Tomohiro Tatebe, *Intermezzo 11/09/01*

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<sup>1</sup> Robert J. Garofalo, *Blueprint for Band* (Fort Lauderdale, FL: Meredith Music Publications, 1983), 98

<sup>2</sup> Richard Miles, ed., *Teaching Music through Performance in Band*, vol. 1, *Why We Wrote This Book*, by Larry Blocher (Chicago: GIA Publications, 1997), 5-6.

- (4) To focus on rhythmic interest  
Yo Goto, *Dancing in Air*  
Hiroshi, Hoshina, *An Ancient Festival*  
Itaru Sakai, *Daibutsu To Shika: Great Buddha and Deer*  
Tomohiro Tatebe, *Dance Celebration*
- (5) To study contemporary vocabulary  
Masamicz Amano, *Yugagyō Cyugan: azuma kagami ibun*  
Akira Miyoshi, *Festa for Wind Orchestra*  
Masato Tsuyuki, *Abstract for Band*
- (6) To improve young band musicianship  
Shin'ya Takahashi, *Gold Rush!*  
Naoya Wada, *The Explorers of Orion*  
Naoya Wada, *As the Dawn Breaks*
- (7) To stimulate mature musicians  
Masamicz Amano, *La Suite Excentrique*  
Yo Goto, *Lux Aeterna*  
Wataru Hokoyama, *Beyond*  
Hayato Hirose, *Pirate's Dream*  
Toshio Mashima, *Jacob's Ladder to a Crescent*  
Toshio Mashima, *Les trios notes du Japon*  
Eiji Suzuki, *Three Spectacles for Navy Blue*

## List of Japanese Composers' Works Published in the United States and European Countries

(Marches, works for solo and band, and transcriptions are not listed)

Composer	Title	Duration	Grade	Publisher	Recording
Akiyama, Toshio	Japanese Songs		2	Masters Music	
Abe, Yuichi	Futurism for Wind Orchestra	4:00	4	Bravo Music	BATP-6004
Amano, Masamicz	La Suite Excentrique	11:10	5	Bravo Music	BOCD-7472/73
Fukuda, Yosuke	Dancing in the Wind	5:25	3.5	Bravo Music	
Goto, Yo	Dancing in Air	6:00	3.5	C. Alan	
	Lux Aeterna	7:30	5	Bravo Music	BOCD-7450/51 GIA CD-638
Hirose, Hayato	American Overture	5:00	4	De Haske	DHR 01-031-3
	Moment Musical	3:35	2.5	De Haske	OMSB-2810
	Norman Rockwell Suite	8:00	5	De Haske	
	Pirate's Dream	13:00	4	De Haske	DHR 04-017-3
	The Bremen Town Musicians	9:15	4	De Haske	DHR 04-014-3
Hokoyama, Wataru	Beyond	9:00	5	Masters Music	
Hoshina, Hiroshi	Ceremonial Dance	10:00	4	Masters Music	
	Fanfare and Celebration	9:00	4	Masters Music	
	Fu-Mon (Dunes)	7:15	4	Bravo Music	BOCD-7403
	Memoire	10:15	4	De Haske	DHR 04-014-3
	Symphonic Metamorphosis "Rei Mei"	16:00	4	Masters Music	
	Symphonic Ode	8:00	4	Ludwig	
Ito, Yasuhide	Festal Scenes	6:30	4	TRN	KOCD-2904
	Funa-Uta for Band	7:45	6	Bravo Music	BOCD-7402 4845-MCD
	Interlude to an Unfinished Opera	7:45	6	Bravo Music	BOCD-7402
	La Vita: Symphony in Three Scenes	12:45	6	Bravo Music	BOCD-7402
Kaneda, Bin	Overture for Symphonic Band	6:00	3	Ludwig	
	Warabe-Uta: Japanese Folk Song Suite	8:30	3	Shawnee Press	
Kobayashi, Toru	Symphonic Dance	4:15	4	Bravo Music	BATP-6003
Koh, Chang Su	Korean Dances	16:15	6	Bravo Music	BOCD-7472/73
Konagaya, Soichi	Japanese Tune	5:50	4	Molenaar	GIA CD-551
Kushida, Tetsunosuke	Asuka (1994 revision)	8:40	5	Bravo Music	BOCD-7401
	Clouds in Collage	6:40	4	Bravo Music	BOCD-7401
	Collage for Band: On Folk Songs from Tohoku District	5:20	4	Bravo Music	BOCD-7401
	Figuration for Shakuhachi and Band	9:30	5	Bravo Music	BOCD-7401
	Ikaruga (1997 revision)	11:00	5	Bravo Music	BOCD-7401
	Steps by Starlight, First Suite for Band	12:20	5	Bravo Music	BOCD-7401
Kuwahara, Hiroaki	Three Fragments for Band	8:00	5	Scherzando	DHR 04-014-3
Mamiya, Michio	Overture for Band	4:30	4	Bravo Music	BATP-6003 KOCD-2903

Mashima, Toshio	Jacob's Ladder to a Crescent	7:20	5	De Haske	KOCD-2905	
	Les Trios Notes du Japon	18:00	5	Bravo Music	K 11154 GIA CD-638 BOCD-7458/59 KOCD-2908	
Matsuura, Kinya	Han-Nya	6:10	4	Bravo Music	PCDZ-1432	
Mikami, Jiro	Sinfonietta	4:00	4	Bravo Music	BATP-6002	
Miyoshi, Akira	Festa for Wind Orchestra	4:00	5	Bravo Music	BATP-6003	
Natori, Goro	Revelation for Band	4:20	6	Bravo Music	BATP-6004	
Nishimura, Yukiko	Star Ship	4:20	4	Southern Music	BOCD-7470/71	
Ohguri, Hiroshi	Fantasy on Osaka Folk Tunes	9:00	5	J. W. Pepper	KOCD-2902	
Sakai, Itaru	Alpine Flowes Party!	10:45	4	De Haske		
	Daibutsu To Shika: Great Buddha and Deer					
		7:10	5	De Haske	DHR 04-014-3	
	Fanfare of Wakakusa Hill	0:50	3	De Haske	DHR 04-014-3	
	Legacy of Woods	5:15	5	De Haske	DHR 04-018-3	
	Omisoka: The New Year's Eve	8:10	4	De Haske	DHR 04-014-3	
	Tanabata: The Seventh Night of July					
		8:40	4.5	De Haske	DHR 04-014-3	
	Suzuki, Eiji	Three Spectacles for Navy Blue	9:40	5	Bravo Music	BOCD-7472/73
	Tajima, Tsutomu	Airs for Wind Orchestra	5:30	3	Bravo Music	
Takahashi, Shin'ya	Jalan-jalan: Visions of Isle of the Gods					
		6:20	5	Bravo Music	BOCD-7456/57 4436-MCD	
Tatebe, Tomohiro	Suite on Celtic Folk Songs	8:30	4	Bravo Music	GIA CD-638	
Toda, Akira	Warabe	4:45	3.5	Kjos		
Tsuyuki, Masato	Abstract for Band	5:30	6	Bravo Music	PCDZ-1432	
Wada, Naoya	As the Dawn Breaks	2:30	2	Barnhouse	WFR342	
	On Wings of Magic	6:00	3	Barnhouse	WFR341	
	The Explores of Orion	4:15	2.5	Barnhouse	WFR336	
Yagizawa, Satoshi	Hymn to the Infinite Sky	7:30	5	De Haske		
	Machu Picchu: City in the Sky	12:00	5	Bravo Music		
	Sinfonia	6:00	4	De Haske		
	Young Pheasants in the Sky	2:30	3	De Haske		

CDs:

BATP, BOCD, OMSB, PCDZ—Brain (distributed by Bravo Music)

DHR—De Haske Records

GIA—GIA

K—Klavier

KOCD—Kosei (distributed by Southern Music)

MCD—Mark

WFR—Walking Frog Records

## List of Selected Works Which are Published in Japan and Available in the United States

(Marches, works for solo and band, and transcriptions are not listed)

Composer	Title	Duration	Grade	Publisher	Recording
Aki, Tohru	Fiesta	5:30		Brain	BOCD-7450/51
Abe, Yuichi	God's Phere: The Karnak Shrine	10:00	5	Brain	BOCD-7472/73
	Infinito Fervore	8:30	4.5	Brain	BOCD-7476/77
	OGA Kinuburui	11:50	5	Brain	BOCD-7458/59
Amano, Masamicz	Alas de Hierro	17:00	5	Brain	
	Concert Grosso	7:00	6	Brain	BOCD-7458/59
	Emanacje I Medytacje Part 1	11:30	6	Brain	BOCD-7452/53
					BOCD-7148
	Emanacje I Medytacje Part 2	13:20	6	Brain	BOCD-7148
	Expiation	8:00	5	Brain	
	Music for an Imaginary Ballet 2	6:35	5	Brain	BOCD-7454/55
	Ohnai	28 :30	5	Brain	BOCD-7148
	Revelation et Geoncide, Vers le commencement a la fin du monde	7 :00	5	Brain	
	The Celebration Overture for Rising-Flourish	8:35	4	Brain	BOCD-7470/71
	Una Overtura Espanol Falsa "El Jadan de Los Lequerdos"	6:20	5	Brain	
	Yugagy Cyugan: azuma kagami ibun	7:50	4	Brain	BOCD-7456/57
					4744-MCD
Fujita, Genba	Kilsitan's Era	9:00	5	ONT	
Fukuda, Yosuke	KA-GU-RA for Band	7:40		Brain	BOCD-7454/55
Fukushima, Hirokazu	A Centenary Celebration	8:00	3.5	Brain	available in 2007
Goto, Yo	A Festival Suite	8:00	3	Brain	BOCD-7458/59
	Claritas: A Movement for Symphonic Band	7:15	5	Brain	BOCD-7472/73
Hirose, Hayato	Captain Marco	10:25	4	Brain	BOCD-7452/53
Hoshina, Hiroshi	An Ancient Festival	15:20	5	Kosei	BOCD-7403
					KOCD-3075
					4845-MCD
	Deux Paysages Sonores (Part 1)			Kosei	KOCD-2902
	Lamentation to— (Theme & Variations)	18:30	5	Brain	BOCD-7403
Iijima, Toshinari	A Stroll by the Lakeside	5:20	4	Brain	BOCD-7458/59
	August 6, 1945: Never Forget Hiroshima	12:00	4	Brain	BOCD-7470/71
	Born in the Wave: The Poem of Sea	7:15	4	Brain	BOCD-7458/59
	Illusions in Shiiba: The Poem of Winds	8:35	4	Brain	BOCD-7456/57
	Landscape: Dead Tree Standing	9:00	5	Brain	BOCD-7474/75
	Poem of Winds: A Suite on Kyusyu Folk Songs	14:15	4	Brain	BOCD-7454/55
	River Greened Land	7:30	5	Brain	BOCD-7168

Ito, Yasuhide	Gloriosa: Symphonic Poem for Band	20:00	5	ONT	BOCD-7402	
					KCD-11077	
Kaneda, Bin	Ballade V for Wind Orchestra	9:40	5	Brain	KOCD-2902	
	Divertimento II for Symphonic Band	17:20	4	Brain	BOCD-7404	
	Passacaglia for Symphonic Band	6:10	4	ONT	BOCD-7404	
					KOCD-2905	
Kikuchi, Yukio	Suite for Symphonic Band	14:30	4	Brain	BOCD-7404	
	Suite for Wind Orchestra	13:40	5	Brain	BOCD-7450/51	
Koyama, Kiyoshige	Kobiki-Uta	10:00	4	ONT	4744-MCD	
	Nomen	24:00	5	Kosei	KOCD-2903	
Miyoshi, Akira	Stars Atlanpic '96	9:00	5	Kosei	KOCD-2903	
Morita, Kazuhiro	Serenade for Wind Orchestra	12:00	4	Brain	BOCD-7476/77	
Nagao, Jun	Fluttering Maple Leaves	20:00	5	Brain		
	La Saison Limineuse du Vent Vert	22:00	5	Brain		
	Reminiscence	7:30	5	Kosei	KOCD-2906	
Nakahashi, Yoshio	Blessed Promising Future: Festival Overture for Symphonic Band	11:40	6	Brain	BOCD-7476/77	
Sakai, Itaru	Konide	6:30	5	Brain	BOCD-7168	
	Mi-na-to	11:10	5	Brain	BOCD-7456/57	
	Spirito de Bressa	6:30		Brain		
Sakai, Takamasa	Jeanne d'Arc: Lyric Poem for Wind Orchestra	19:00	5	Brain	BOCD-7472/73	
					BOCD-7168	
Shimizu, Daisuke	Prelude for Festival	7:10		Brain	BOCD-7470/71	
	Improving Dance: Four Episodes	16:00		Brain	BOCD-7168	
	Suzuki, Eiji	Awakening	6:20	4	Brain	BOCD-7470/71
		Icarus with the Eternal Wings	6:45	3	Brain	BOCD-7458/59
	Fanfare "S-E-A"	3:30		Brain	BOCD-7470/71	
	Morning Stars	4:45		Brain	BOCD-7454/55	
	Songs and Dances	7:00	4	Kosei	KOCD-2905	
	The Fete of Light	7:40		Brain	BOCD-7456/57	
	Takahashi, Hiroki	Saariselka Wood Overture	7:30	3.5	Brain	available in 2007
	Takahashi, Shin'ya	A Song of Straits	10:00	5	Brain	
Atlantis		8:00	3	Brain	BOCD-7470/71	
KA-EN		7:20	5	Brain	BOD-3005	
Glacier Express		6:25	4	Brain	BOCD-7458/59	
Gold Rush!		5:00	3	Brain	BOCD-7168	
					6196-MCD	
					BOCD-7168	
Tamura, Fumio	Sharaku	8:10	5	Brain		
	Wright Flyer	10:00		Brain		
	Charlotte: Beauty Grotesque	8:30	5	Brain	BOCD-7458/59	
Tatebe, Tomohiro	Pretty Woman	8:50	5	Brain	BOCD-7450/51	
	Breath of Gaia	7:50	4	Brain	BOD-3013	
	Dance Celebration	3:05		Brain	BOCD-7456/57	
	Intermezzo 11/09/01	6:30	3.5	Brain	BOCD-7470/71	
	Music for Celebration	5:20		Brain	BOCD-7452/53	
	On the Night of the Centaur Festival	13:00	4	Brain	BOCD-7474/75	

Toda, Akira	Grandfather's Clock Variations	8:00	4	Brain	BOCD-7168
	Poem of the Sea	11:00	5	Brain	BOCD-7450/51
	Mathias Grunewald	9:30	5	Brain	BOCD-7470/71
Yagisawa, Satoshi	And Then the Ocean Glows	6:50	3	Brain	BOCD-7470/71
	Dimelentas II	6:10	3.5	Brain	BOCD-7456/57
	Moai: The Seven Giant Statues Gazing at the Sun	7:30	3.5	Brain	
	Nazca Lines: The Universe Drawn on the Earth	9:00	4.5	Brain	available in 2007
	Per-Sonare	6:00	4	Brain	BOCD-7474/75
	Soaring over the Ridge	8:40	3.5	Brain	BOCD-7472/73
	The West Symphony I: The Blue Wolf on the Plateau	9:00	4	Brain	BOD-3013
	The West Symphony II: Wahlstatt	8:00	4	Brain	

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KOCD—Kosei (distributed by Southern Music)

MCD—Mark