

Outline Script in English

Title Slide

Hello Everyone! My name is Nicole Saldana. It's nice to meet you. Today, I will be talking about Japanese Music.

Overview

Here is my outline.

Background

- Ongaku (Music) is comprised of two kanji; *on*(sound) and *gaku*(enjoy).
- Japan is the 2nd largest music market in the world, with a total retail value of over 3 billion dollars.
- Japan has had a long history of having music influences from around the world and also adding its own unique touch to it.

Point 1 (History)

- In Japan, the earliest form of music was drums and flute music. This was around 6th century when kagura shrine dances started. Also goes with introduction of Buddhism whose liturgical chants gave rise to the great development of bells, gongs, rattles, etc.
- 8th century court established a *gagakuryo* (music bureau) to be in charge of music duties, both ritual and entertainment. A standard *gagaku* had 16 musicians on percussion, string, and reed instruments.
- In the 12th century, theatrical genres of music started to develop. Buddhist chanters would recite long historical tales (like the *Heike Monogatari*) accompanying with the *biwa* lute.
- From 17th century, the *shamisen* (three-stringed plucked lute) provided the lively rhythm to accompany kabuki and bunraku theaters.

Point 2 (Traditional Japanese Music)

- There are three types of Traditional Japanese music: instrumental, court music, and theatrical.
- *Gagaku*, as mentioned earlier, includes dances and songs. It has two styles. One is instrumental (*kigaku*) and vocal music (*seigaku*)
- *Biwa* is a form of a short-necked lute. It is most famous in The Tale of the Heike stories, when the *Minamoto* clan triumphed over the *Taira*.
- *Taiko* influence first came from China, but music and instrument have now remained uniquely Japanese. There is even a video game Taiko Drum Master based on Taiko
- *Min'yō* (Japanese folk songs) can be divided into four categories: work, religious, gatherings (like weddings, funerals, festivals), and children's songs.

Point 3 (American influence to Japanese music)

- Traditional Japanese music is quite different from Western music. A main reason for this is Japanese traditional music is based on the intervals of human breathing rather than mathematical timing.
- Work songs, dance tunes, humorous songs, and parodies provide a record of American history.
- Western music, like military marches, became popular in Japan. *Kayōkyoku* (westernized pop music) became a major industry and popular in Japan.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I have found Japanese music dates back from a very long time. Some have strong influence starts by foreigners, however, the Japanese have made it to have their own style as well. This includes a powerful influence like America. The Japanese have been able to keep their traditional music influence strong through their culture and society.

References