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Collection of Japanese Koto Music (Excerpt)

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COLLECTION

OF

JAPANESE KOTO MUSIC



Tōkyō Academy of Music, Japan.



Published by the Department of Education.
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Preface.

SCH WAY

The present collection consists of those pieces of Japanese popular Koto music which may be deemed suited to serve as first steps to learning the Koto music and which were selected as such by the late Institute of Music.

Though most of the pieces contained in this collection are selected from the better portion of the old Koto music, yet for those words and tunes occuring therein, which are liable to offend the public feelings on account of their vulgarity and meanness, pure and elegant ones have been substituted, thus preventing their baneful effects upon the social character.

Even in our old Koto music, there has not been wanting what may be called musical notation, yet there was none in which both tunes and words were precisely represented by closs mbinations. Nor has there existed any text in which is indicated the order of learning the music, as considered with due regard to the graduation from the simpler and easier to the more complex and difficult. The present collection aims at supplementing these deficiencies.

As to the revisions made in the words, some of the songs have been reconstructed as a whole, while some have been only modified in parts, those which were tolerably fair as a whole being left entirely untouched. Although some few entirely new compositions as regards both words and tunes have been added to the present collection, all these have been prepared with a care not to injure that virtue which is inherent in our old Koto music. And the best originals are left entirely untouched in regard to their tunes.

The compilation of this work was shared among the following persons under the superintendence and direction of S. Isawa, Director of the late Institute of Music—present Tōkyō Academy of Music:—The selection of the words, by Y. Satomi and I. Kabe, belonging to the said Institute, and the selection of the music, by S. Yamase, M. Yamato, S. Yamato, S. Yamataki, K. Araki and T. Okuyama, musicians whose speciality is the Japanese popular music.

Tōkyō,

September, 1st., 1888.

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