

## **Variation of the “Sound of Civilization” : Modern Discourse on Music in Taiwan from the Late Meiji to the Early Shōwa Period**

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### **ABSTRACT**

After the First Sino-Japanese War, with the signing of the Treaty of Shimonoseki, Taiwan was ceded by the Qing Dynasty to Japan. In June 1895, the colonial educational system was established in the School of Zhisanyen by the first Director of Educational Affairs, Izawa Shiuzi. Between 1896 and 1898, rules and regulations related to schools and national language education were enacted. Apart from language learning, singing lessons were also made compulsory for school students. Hence, with objectives of fostering assimilation and providing enlightenment, these singing lessons set the stage for modern music education in Taiwan. Besides music being taught at school, modern discourses on music were published in newspapers and magazines in colonial Taiwan. Though limited in quantity, these publications together with lectures, seminars, charity concerts, as well as activities organized by record companies and music associations, helped popularize modern music playing a dual role in knowledge dissemination and introduction of new ideas.

This article begins with a brief account of Izawa's modern idea of music education, highlighting its importance as one of the origins of modern music thinking among Asian intellectuals. Then musical discourses bearing the significance of enlightening the social culture published before 1930 were explored. These publications by both Japanese and Taiwanese teachers as well as intellectuals included essays of Takahashi Hymiyo, Yamaguchi Tōken, and Wei Qingde published at the end of Meiji period in the *Taiwan kyōikukai zashi*; interviews with Zhang Fuxing published between the late Meiji and Taishō

periods in the *Taiwan nichinichi shinpō*, lectures of Ichizyou Shinzaburou and Tanabe Hisao, a famous musicologist from Tokyo, published in the Taishō period in the *Taiwan kyōikukai zashi*, and the writings of Li Jingtū published in the same magazine in the beginning of Shōwa period. Exploring these publications of various styles and different themes can shed light on the enlightenment on modernization these discourses brought about and their hidden theme of cultural assimilation.

**Keywords:** Modernization, Music Discourse, Izawa Shiuzi, Zhang Fuxing, Tanabe Hisao, Taiwan kyōikukai zashi