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The Collaboration of Educational Music Programs in School Music Education: Focusing on Suntory Hall's Program

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Abstract

There have been an increasing number of opportunities for musicians to engage with schools such as 'Outreach' and 'Appreciation classes' in Japan. Additionally, music concert halls, public facilities and music organizations have developed youth education programs in which professional performers participate in various music-related activities with children.

The 2017 Japanese revised Curriculum Guideline sought a 'The curriculum open to society', and placed an emphasis on utilize children's competencies and based on it, collaborate school and society. Furthermore, the guideline stated that it is necessary to ensure that children are not only musically involved in classrooms, but are also 'proactively engaged in sounds and music in life and society'.

This study seeks to understand the shared musical collaboration between society and schools and aims to clarify what it means to support children's music activities through such collaborations. In order to explore this partnership, this study focuses on Suntory Hall's music education programs.

The hall is a famous private concert hall in Japan. It has been offering educational programs since its establishment and currently offers a number of programs under the umbrella of the 'Enjoy! Music Program'. One of these is a program that collaborates with public primary schools which was founded based on an idea by an internationally acclaimed conductor and was established by the hall, an education committee and a foundation in 2014. As part of this program, before children listen to a concert at the hall, a pre-activity related to the concert program is held at the school. It was challenging to develop a program involving so many people from various fields. When the program started, there were fewer participating schools, and there were cases where pre-activity held in classes other than music activity (e.g., art activity). Overcoming these problems, in 2019, for all schools to participate in pre-activities and concerts at Suntory Hall, and it was possible due to people who have been long involved in this program and have continued to contribute to its improvement. Through analyzing this program, the following perspectives emerged.

- 1) Emphasis on 'school music education'
- 2) Emphasis on placing children at the center of all music

The study was conducted by employing a qualitative research methodology that involved video recordings of the activities, field notes, analysis of lesson plans, and questionnaire results in the program.