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Influences from Educational Music TV Program “Minna-no-uta” on School Music Education in Postwar Japan

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to analyze the influences that the Japanese educational music TV program "Minna-no-uta," which began broadcasting in April 1961 and continues to be broadcast to this day, has had on school music education in postwar Japan.

This TV program was launched by the Japan Broadcasting Corporation (NHK), a public broadcaster, targeting upper elementary school students to junior high school students. The purpose of starting this TV program was "to bring healthy and beautiful songs to children". This objective was clearly the opposite of the school music education of the pre-war period, which aimed to imperial assimilation policy.

It can be said that many of the songs broadcast on this program played an important role in the formation of school music culture in postwar Japan. For example, many songs such as "Okina-furudokei: *Big old clock*", "Senro-wa-tsudukuyo: *The line goes on and on*", "Obake-nante-naisa: *There's no ghosts*", "Kitte-no-nai-okurimono: *Stampless departures*", "Clarinet-kowashiyatta: *I broke my clarinet*", etc. became major music as teaching materials for kindergarten and elementary school after they were broadcast on this TV program "Minna-no-uta".

In the current "Minna-no-Uta", only original songs for this TV program are broadcasted. However, in the 1960s and 1970s, the program featured many existing Japanese nursery rhymes such as "Natsu-wa-kinu: *Summer is not coming*" and songs translated from foreign songs such as "*Big old clock*" and "*I broke my clarinet*". In other words, there is a transition from covers to originals in the development process of this TV program. This is similar to the development process of school music education in prewar Japan.

In this study, I would like to examine (1) the background of this TV program, and (2) its influence on school music education in postwar Japan, including comparisons with the prewar period. This research was supported by Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research from Japan Society for the Promotion of Science.