

# The Meiji Era and Hymns: Aspects of Protestant Christian Hymns in the Meiji Era

## Summary

This thesis aims to illustrate cultural developments of Japanese society during the Meiji Era (1868-1912) in music, linguistic and other cultural fields, through examining how Christian hymns became popular among Japanese. It also examines the extent of social influence of Christian hymns during the period in order to underscore the roles Christian Hymns played in the modernization of Japan. It comprises the following seven chapters.

[Chapter 1] Kaishu Katsu and Christian hymns: Academic paradigm shift in learning the West, from through Dutch to English.

The introductory chapter examines hymns that are imported from Netherlands and translated from Dutch toward the end of the Edo Period, before the Meiji Era. It studies why Kaishu Katsu, one of the key figures who power transition from the Tokugawa Shogunate to Meiji government, was eager to translate Dutch hymns into Japanese. The chapter also examines personal relations between Katsu and Christianity.

[Chapter 2] Jonathan Goble and Christian hymns: From English-language hymns to Japanese

This chapter studies the first ever Japanese-language Christian hymn on records and the American missionary Jonathan Goble, who translated it from English. It examines the network of Christina missionaries in East Asia. It also studies some characteristics of Christian hymns, including the Japanese meter 7s & 5s, a pentatonic scale(a diatonic scale without fourth and seventh degrees), rhyme and alliteration.

[Chapter 3] C. M. Williams and Christian hymns: Birth of early hymns and collaborations within Christian community

This chapter studies hymns translated by the missionary C. M. Williams and his collaborations with other Christian denominations.

[Chapter 4] Education for the blind and social activities by foreign missionaries in Japan

This chapter examines education for the blind and various social and welfare activities by Christian missionaries and roles hymns played in these activities.

[Chapter 5] Japanese hymns, school songs and parody songs(Civil War songs) and missionary activities by American churches in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

This chapter discusses the development of modern music in Japan, particularly hymns and school songs from the perspective of their relations with American missionary activities in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and hymns they brought. It also touches on the relations between Christian hymns and parody songs(Civil War songs).

[Chapter 6] Masahisa Uemura and hymns: Japan's first theological study of Christian hymns and "Shinsen Sambika = Hymns and songs of Praise".

In the course of its evolution, hymns chanted by five major Christian denominations are standardized into the 1903 "The Hymnal" collection. This chapter introduces the predecessor of the collection compiled by Masahisa Uemura in 1888 and his theory on Christian hymns.

[Chapter 7] Toson Shimazaki, Ichiyo Higuchi and Christian hymns: Christianity and poetry, 8 & 6 meter(syllable), and the Japanese meter 7s & 5s.

This chapter examines the influence of Christian hymns on poetry works by Toson Shimazaki and Ichiyo Higuchi. It studies their relations with Christianity, 8 & 6 meter(syllables), and the Japanese meter 7s & 5s.