

Japan Music and Culture

Conducted in English

No prior music experience or knowledge of Japanese or Japanese music is required.

Location: Tokyo, Japan

Dates: January 1 – 24

Host: The Academy at Magic Hour

Credits: 3.0

Description:

In this series lecture seminar, you will explore the music world of Japan. You will receive lectures on Japanese music history, Japanese music signature and notation, and writing about Japanese music. Featured guests include prominent musicians, DJs, and music producers in anime, independent, and mainstream music. You will spend time in a recording studio, take a site visit to a music production company, and experience live house music. By course end, you will have gained a healthy sense of the professionalism, dedication, and skill that so characterizes the Japanese music industry.

The course includes an immersive culture program at a seaside retreat in Kyonan, Chiba, survival Japanese training, a visit to the largest sitting Buddha in Japan, a Matsuri performance with taiko drumming and dinner to follow, a trip to the Studio Ghibli museum, a culture program lecture and dinner in Tokyo, and a cultural tour from Asakusa's old town to Tokyo's Skytree.

Requirements include:

A) **Detailed Journal/Log:**

- i. An ongoing journal/log for note-taking during lectures, generating questions, observations, and responses for an engaging discussion with yourself through this musical and cultural journey in Japan. The journal/log serves as the basis for your term essay (20% of your grade).
- ii. You will be given selections of music by various Japanese artists. You will pick three artists minimum to write about their musical sound, quality, and offer an overall critique/review (15% of your grade).

B) **Active Participation:** Motivation, enthusiasm, and exemplary behavior for the duration of the course. (20% of your grade)

C) **Presentation:** A five-to-seven-minute presentation on your musical and cultural journey in Japan. Or, focus on an aspect of Japanese music you would like to explore more in-depth and present to the class (15% of your grade).

D) **Term Essay:** In a ten-to-twelve-page typed, double-spaced essay, building from your journal/log entries, you will write a detailed, in-depth reflection on your musical and cultural journey in Japan this January. You are highly encouraged to include music samples and other media regarding your course experience. However, this is a written essay, first and foremost. In other words, you must fully integrate your media with clear references within the context of your essay.

Due Jan 24 to: theacademyatmagichour@gmail.com (30% of your grade).

Ultimately, the journal/log, presentation, and term essay are not only for you to earn your grade, but also serve as physical mementos of your immersion experience.

Required Materials:

Course handouts

Journal (see Culture Program requirements)

Japan Music and Culture Course Coordinator:

Yukio Kobayashi

With over forty years of experience managing and producing Japanese musical artists, producing concerts, and live music. Also has his own independent music label

[linkedin.com/in/yukio-kobayashi-790b652](https://www.linkedin.com/in/yukio-kobayashi-790b652)

Potential Lecturers, Guests, and Artists:

Shunsuke Fujiwara

Label Executive Sony Music

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/shunsuke-fujiwara-8387a441/>

Ritsuko Honma

Live music/stage producer

<https://artsfield.jp/professor/000320.html>

Yoshi Terashima

Artist management in London/ex BMG Japan vice president/own recording studio

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/yoshikazu-terashima-311790b1/>

DJ Yoshizawa Dynamite.jp

Japanese music DJ

<https://www.dynamite-jp.com/>

Mike Rogers

Radio DJ

https://lovefm.co.jp/disc_jockeys/more/192

Hideki Murai

Vinyl record producer at Sony Music Great Tracks

https://www.110107.com/s/oto/page/great_tracks?ima=0000&oto=ROBO004

Makoto Honne

TohYoh Kasei(vinyl press) manager/writer/record producer

<https://www.oricon.co.jp/news/2214336/photo/2/>

Tomohiro Hori

Heaven's Door company CEO

<https://heavens-door-music.com/>

Misao Ishida

SPACE SHOWER TV/event producer

<https://www.musicman.co.jp/interview/458302>

Kohtaro Kawai
International tour manager at Sony Music Japan
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kotaro-kawai-47b1a1b3/>

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International tour manager
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