“Folkloric Musicology” and Study of the Music History

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“Folkloric musicology” is a science of which subjects of study are folk musics such as children’s songs, balladry, and musics used in the folk art and the folk religions. “Folkloric musicology” is closely connected with ethnomusicology. However, it is not widely approved in Japan. One of the major factors is the fact that the methodology has not been established.

On the other hand, the review on the methodology has been quite inadequate in the field of the music history in the study of Japanese music. Some parts where the music history and “Folkloric musicology” overlap with each other are closely connected and useful for the both sciences in terms of methodology. In this paper, issues on methodology are discussed focusing on the parts where these two sciences overlap with each other.

In Chapter 1, it is discussed that the music history should observe the movements of music in every stratum. In the music history in Japan so far, attention has been paid only to the art music, but it is not possible to grasp precisely even the movements of the art music. If the considerations are given to the movements of music of the people living in the agricultural, mountain and fishing villages in all over Japan, i.e., the dynamics of the folk music, then it will become possible to grasp the total picture. In this sense, a help from “Folkloric Musicology” will be necessary.

In Chapter 2, it is discussed that the music history must be a study of history that can hear the sounds. Since in the Japanese music history in the past, researches have been made mainly based on the bibliographical data, the most important question, with what sounds the music was actually performed, has been forgotten.

In Chapter 3, it is discussed how it is possible to imagine the past sounds that had already disappeared. To achieve it, it is necessary to analyse the direction of changes, factors of changes, etc. in details using, as the clues, the

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art music remaining up until now and the present sounds of the folk music, in order to feel out the from of the old sounds. In order to do that, a help from "Folkloric Musicology" will be necessary.

In Chapter 4, it is discussed that it will be effective for "Folkloric musicology" and the music history to utilize the other's methodology with each other by clarifying the scientific natures of the two learnings, and to utilize the results of studies with each other as the supplement.