

What classical music brings us:

based on our experience in the UK

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Introduction

In this early autumn, we went on a music study tour in the UK, which was a great success. Also we built friendly relationships with students in local music school.

There we saw many people of young generation, which is not seen often in Japan.

Research Question

What is needed for classical music to be more popular among young generations?

Method

We paid attention to the differences between popular music and classical music.

Among various differences such as rhythms and tempos, we focused on the length of music as we thought it was the most significant factor.

Sampling

As comparative samples, we used 16 songs which were greatest hits in 2017 and 17 classical symphonies which had commonly been heard around the world.

Procedure

We measured the length of each music and calculated the average depending on the genre.

Data & Analysis

- Popular music
the average length was 4min. 42 sec.
- Classical music
the average was 41 min. to finish.

→ **Considerable difference**

[Time]

The length seems to have a close relationship with its popularity.

It is fair to say that short music is 'light' and 'easy to listen' with less concentration, whereas long music may be time consuming and need mental strength.

However, in other words, the latter allows people to go deeper into the world of music than short music. It requires a certain amount of time for humans to absorb in thought or just to meditate for mental purity.

[Structure]

Looking at the music note, these indicate short music tends to be simple in terms of structure and development

Conclusion

Both popular music and classical music have positives and negatives.

As one of the keys, we suggest that we introduce shorter classical music instead of those long symphonies played in the concert hall. We may visit younger children, by visiting kindergartens or elementary schools and performing in front of them. This sort of activity can help them to know that classical music is quite moving and entertaining just as popular music is, in other words, 'cool.' We hope classical music would be more familiar to wider generations and let them enjoy it.