

Wind Band Elements in AKB48's Works: The Fusion of Japanese Pop Music, Idol Culture, and Wind Bands

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Abstract

This article explores the co-relations between Japanese pop music, idol culture, and wind bands in Japan with a close study on AKB48, one of the most significant and prominent Japanese idol group, while at the same time investigates the different ways wind bands incorporated into the popular idol culture in Japan. The author first discusses the prominent use of wind band elements within the works of AKB48 and analyzes the diverse musical approaches, including the incorporation of wind bands in AKB48's musical repertoire and the insertion of professional wind band recordings into the group's officially released albums. The phenomenon is to be further explicated from the perspective of pervasive audience reception of AKB48, acknowledging it as a representative cultural icon of its era. Another focal point is the role of wind bands in major national events, such as the Koshien High School Baseball Tournaments. These occasions often feature performances, which mix wind band music with AKB48's work to create a vibrant, dynamic, and youthful atmosphere that resonates with themes of dreams and aspirations. Lastly, the article explores how wind band elements are interwoven into the music videos and performance of AKB48 to highlight the intersection of these two popular cultural expressions. This analysis provides insights on ways idol groups expand musical diversity by cooperating with wind bands. The research findings suggest wind bands can proactively respond to the evolving market of popular music.

Keywords: AKB48 Group, AKB48, idol culture, Koshien, wind band

日本流行音樂與偶像文化和 管樂團的關係： AKB48 作品中的管樂團元素

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摘 要

這篇文章探討了日本流行音樂與偶像文化和管樂團之間的關係。研究聚焦於日本著名偶像團體 AKB48，分析管樂團如何與日本偶像文化相互交織。作者首先審視管樂元素在 AKB48 音樂文化中的體現。該分析涵蓋了各種重要的方面，包括將管樂元素納入 AKB48 官方管樂版本，及通過專業管樂團為 AKB48 官方管樂版本進行官方錄音。文中亦深入探討管樂界普遍歡迎 AKB48 的反應，肯定 AKB48 作為當時一個重要的文化現象。另一重點是管樂團在重大活動中的角色，如全國高等學校棒球錦標賽（甲子園）。這些場合經常展現結合了管樂音樂與 AKB48 偶像文化的表演，營造出一種充滿活力、熱血的氛圍，與夢想和抱負的主題相呼應。最後，文章探討 AKB48 如何將管樂團元素融入 AKB48 的音樂影片和表演中，進一步展示了這兩種流行文化表現形式之間的交集。這項分析揭示了偶像團體如何通過與管樂團的合作來促進音樂多樣性。研究結果表明，管樂團能夠有效地回應不斷變化的流行音樂市場。

關鍵詞：AKB48 集團、AKB48、偶像文化、甲子園、管樂團

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