

Cultural Pluralism in Mitsukuri Shūkichi's Theory of *Godowasei* (Quintal Harmony):
Toward a Musical League of Nations
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Mitsukuri Shūkichi (1895–1971), a key figure in the founding of the *Shinkō Sakkyokuka Renmei* [The Federation for Innovative Composers] in 1930, is known for his theory of Japanese harmony (*Godowasei*; Quintal Harmony), a theory which, in his view, works well for Japanese melody. Although Mitsukuri's theory and music have come to be regarded as historical phenomena that do not have much contemporary significance in Japan, they have attracted the critical attention of *Yōgaku* research abroad and have been discussed in relation to imperialism (Galliano 2002; Herd 2004; Pacun 2012; Utz 2015). That Mitsukuri worked in the navy during World War II and that there were constraints to his freedom of speech have some bearing on the evaluation of Mitsukuri. This paper re-evaluates the impacts of Mitsukuri's theory of *Godowasei* by pitting overseas research against Japanese sources and by tracing how his theory evolved from the pre-war to the post-war periods amid complicated international relations.

In 1934, the year after Japan withdrew from the League of Nations, Mitsukuri published his theory of *Godowasei* in three languages (German, French, and Japanese). From the outset, Mitsukuri conceived it as a theory that integrates German, French, Japanese, and also Russian musical predilections. The factors of Jewish composers and Japanese sensibilities were also taken into consideration. Through his 1934 article, Mitsukuri established ties with the ISCM. His theory also resonated with the ISCM's notion of a musical league of nations. Instead of prioritizing 'Japaneseness,' Mitsukuri set out to demonstrate the commonalities between the East and the West throughout the ages where musical structure and harmony are concerned. After the war, Mitsukuri navigated his theory toward the broader realm of world music. Hence Koizumi Fumio's theory of Japanese scales, which emerged around 1956 when Japan joined the United Nations, may be seen to have inherited an important facet of Mitsukuri's theory. This is also reflective of the legacy of Mitsukuri's arduous work to achieve reconciliation between opposing parties and different ethnicities at a time when words were often forbidden from telling the truth.