

## **Mevlevi Music in the Republic of Turkey:**

### **Granting of Recognition of Turkishness to the Music by the Government and Its People**

**SAITO Mitsuru**

This thesis examines the status of Mevlevi music in the Republic of Turkey. Mevlevi music refers to music practiced by the Mevlevi branch of the Sufi sect. In 1925, the banning of sufism by the Republic, coupled with the Mevlevi's close relationship to the Ottoman court, led Mevlevi music to be regarded as anti-nationalist and suppressed to the brink of extinction in the Republic early years. However, in 1946, prohibition was relaxed and the music quietly reincorporated into the memorial service of Mevlana, founder of the Mevlevi order. In 1956, service repertoire expanded to its original length. It continues to be received enthusiastically by the public. The granting of recognition of "Turkishness" to the Mevlevi order, its founder Mevlana and the Ottoman music in general paved the way for the music to gain national heritage status under the auspices of the national ensemble for Mevlevi music in 1991.

Through this study, it became clear that the concept of "Turkishness" embracing Turkish musics has little basis in the genres themselves. Rather, it could be said to be a term employed by the Turkish Government and its people to denote musics originating in Anatolia, the location of the Republic of Turkey.