

COMPLETION REPORT

Chulalongkorn University, Thailand

Panjai Chulapan

Subject of Research Project: **The Artistically Cultural Relation of Japanese and Thai Piano Music Inspired by Klaus Pringsheim**

“The Artistically Cultural Relation of Japanese and Thai Piano Music inspired by Klaus Pringsheim” aimed to study artistic culture and relation between Japanese and Thai composers in the area of piano music. Research results show influence of Gustav Mahler on piano works by Thai and Japanese composers studied with Pringsheim at the Tokyo University of the Arts in Japan around 1931-37.

Klaus Pringsheim (1883-1972), a German composer, was a pupil of Gustav Mahler (1860-1911) and worked as an assistant conductor at the Vienna Court Opera around 1906-07. Pringsheim himself also directed and conducted many known orchestras, including the German State Theater in Prague and the Max Reinhardt Theater in Berlin where he brought out the first Mahler’s cycle with the Berlin Philharmonic. Pringsheim’s compositions include symphonies, string quartets, concertos, and other works; for example, *Siamese Melodies: Suite for Violin*, *21 Short Piano Studies for Beginners*, and *36 Kanons for Klavier*. Pringsheim was one of foreign professors invited to teach at the Tokyo University of the Arts since the beginning of the twentieth century to promote Western music study in Japan. Pringsheim influenced many composers under his supervision in terms of German Romantic musical language of Mahler.

Mahler’s unique singing style and traditional Romantic harmony can be traced in works by both Pringsheim and his students, including Prasad Silapabanleng and Komei Abe who furthered the idea of integrating vernacular musical language with Western harmony. Abe’s piano repertoire 1) combined a German Romantic music and Japanese modal usage 2) used koto playing technique like his Piano Sonata No.3 in C minor 3) packed with chromatic and sequential harmony usage and 4) showed expressive singing melodies traced back to Mahler. Silapabanleng’s compositions are mostly for orchestra and plays; a few are arrangements for piano. Silapabanleng’s original compositions, piano arrangements like “*Sakura*”, and a piano solo piece “*To Daffodils*” reflect Western chromatic harmony. *Sakura* also shows Japanese tune with gliding high pitches seen in Japanese koto. *36 Kanons for Klavier* shows strict and conventional canon with intense chromatic harmony yet tonal structure. Those composition reflected influences of German musical language at the time; Mahler’s influence is obviously indisputable. Folk materials as well as nature atmosphere like bird calls had also been artistically conveyed.

During the spread of the pandemic Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19), a visit to Tokyo University of the Arts in Japan to collect data and interview related people as well as international couriers were impossible. Music scores, books, and other online documents were drawn and translated instead. Interviews of relatives and students of Silapabanleng and a visit to his family music archive in Bangkok were well examined.

Publication of the Results of Research Project:

Verbal Presentation (Date, Venue, Name of Conference, Title of Presentation, Presenter, etc.)

4 lectures:

- Piano Literature I class on Tuesday, November 16, 2021
- Seminar in Performance Practice class on Tuesday, November 30, 2021
- Seminar in Pedagogy class on Tuesday, January 25, 2022
- Piano Literature II class on Tuesday, February 8, 2022

Thesis (Name of Journal and its Date, Title and Author of Thesis, etc.)

Book (Publisher and Date of the Book, Title and Author of the Book, etc.)

1) Panjai Chulapan. "Selected Piano Works by Klaus Pringsheim's Students at the Tokyo University of the Arts: Analysis, Interpretation and Performance Techniques." *Journal of Urban Culture Research* (JUCR, Scopus Q1), Vol.25, 2 (July 2022): 148-160.

2) Panjai Chulapan. "The Artistically Cultural Relation of Japanese and Thai Piano Music inspired by Klaus Pringsheim". Bangkok: Chulalongkorn University Printing House, 2022.