Sample Quiz Questions

I. True/False:

1. The piano was considered a prestigious instrument in the mid-20th century in Japan.

2. Department stores in Japan used traditional Japanese music to attract customers in the first two decades of the 20th century.

3. The Japanese language adopted the Chinese writing system, but the Japanese language is unrelated to the Chinese language.

4. The order in which the instruments enter is always the same in named compositions such as *Etenraku*.

5. *Syakuhati* masters take seriously humankind’s connection with nature, using the music as a means to enlightenment.

6. The *iemoto* system is a relationship based on money paid per hour of instruction.

7. Although traditional *koto* notation has note groupings, no meter or accent is intended based on the groupings.

8. Nosaka’s twenty-stringed *koto* has been intended for accompaniment.

9. In *kabuki* theatre, audience response by spontaneous applause is strictly prohibited.

10. Singing skills are not required of *kabuki* actors, but they cultivate dramatic use of the voice and flamboyant movement.

11. The Japanese government was concerned about the potential loss of their traditional culture, it instituted an award system in 1955 to recognize significant bearers of “Intangible Cultural Properties.”

12. Since the 1970s, the record industry promoted *enka* as an emblem of national culture.

13. Shonen Knife was the first all girl punk rock group from Japan to make it big abroad.

14. Karaoke was originally intended for professional singers’ live performances.

II. Multiple Choice:

1. Where could one learn Western music around the first two decades of the 20th century in Japan?
   a. *bandoya*
   b. conservatories
   c. department store troupes
   d. primary schools
   e. all of the above

2. What brought much of the Chinese culture to Japan?
   a. Buddhism
   b. Christianity
   c. explorers
   d. war
   e. none of the above
3. The largest ensemble in all of Japanese traditional music is:
   a. bandoya
   b. gagaku
   c. kabuki
   d. no
   e. none of the above

4. The mode of banshiki that is used exclusively for funeral ceremonies of the imperial family is:
   a. a symbol of the darkness and fecundity of the womb
   b. associated with the color black
   c. associated with the direction north
   d. associated with winter
   e. all of the above

5. The Japanese traditional system for transmission of knowledge between master and disciple is:
   a. gaikyoku
   b. honkyoku
   c. iemoto seido
   d. sensei
   e. none of the above

6. In kabuki theater, women’s roles were played by:
   a. either female or male specialists
   b. female specialists
   c. male specialists
   d. younger aged specialists
   e. all of the above

7. In the early 1940’s, the military in Japan provided ear training for children because:
   a. children needed to discriminate various attack planes
   b. music was used to detract from the horror of war
   c. the military believed that cultural activities in children cold instill hope to end the war
   d. the military needed to train young band musicians
   e. none of the above

8. Enka songs:
   a. are generally slow to medium speed
   b. can be traced largely to 1930s theme songs
   c. comprised the earliest repertory of karaoke
   d. express despairing sadness and self-sacrificing sentiment
   e. all of the above

9. Karaoke was born in Japan in the:
   a. 1950s
   b. 1960s
   c. 1970s
   d. 1980s
   e. 1990s
Key
Multiple Choice: 1. d, 2. a, 3. b, 4. e, 5. c, 6. c, 7. a, 8. e, 9. c