

HK Kim from South Korea

**Instrument
des Jahres 2023**
Mandoline



To make it easier for me to compose a page about you as a mandolin player I ask you if you can send me answers to some of the following questions:

my name:[HK Kim](#) (Hyekyung Kim)

My country: ...[South Korea](#)

please send a picture of you (preferably with your mandolin) that I am allowed to use on my website
if possible send a bio that I can use



please send a picture of your main instrument that I am allowed to use on my website - if possible including information about the luthier / brand of your mandolin including information about the luthier / brand of your mandolin

[Ochiai SS model](#)



An endorser for world renowned string maker, [OPTIMA](#) since 2023



The brochure from Luthier featuring the brand of my instrument used in the 2023 CMSA Convention. The first instrument pictured is the same model as mine.

Ochiai Mandolin since 1963

Ochiai Mandolin is a great example of Japanese craftsmanship.

I believe that Ochiai Mandolin is very suitable to express rich musically.

Takashi Kubota

The Ochiai mandolin is a world-class instrument. And without a doubt, the name will go down in history.

Masataka Hori

As I grew up with Ochiai mandolin, I wish I could play deeper and more mature music. My instrument that is always by my side and surprises me!!

Hye Kyung Kim

Ochiai Mandolin Distributor
Mandolin & Guitar
ikegaku
E-mail: ikegaku@ikegaku.co.jp
URL: <https://ikegaku.co.jp>

Passion for the perfect sound is what produces something great!

Daigo Ochiai
Born in 1945, after graduating from high school, started mandolin making with his father, Tadao Ochiai. After Tadao Ochiai passed away in 1985, he became the successor of Ochiai Strings.
He works, the result of passion and effort with numerous performers and instructors, and has not only in Japan but also overseas.
In 1991, he produced the top of the line model "7.5," which is awarded himself. He called it "Ochiai 7.5," which is a distinctive model of professional mandolinist Masataka Hori.
In the same year, he exhibited his mandolin at Festschrift of Festschrift of Festschrift 2014 in Germany, where it was well received.

Sanshiro Ochiai
The father is Tadao Ochiai, and his brother is Daigo Ochiai who currently works with his brother at Ochiai Strings.
He also worked in the production of his own original models. He is full of passion on new challenges when inheriting tradition has earned him high praise from performers.

Ochiai Mandolin is highly liked is preferred by school bands and recreational circles across Japan, as well as by numerous conductors and professional mandolinists both in Japan and abroad. Still yet, Daigo Ochiai is forever polishing his craft and pursuing new ideas in order to improve the quality of his product. Moreover, he is training successors and passing down his skills as a responsible luthier so that musicians can receive aftercare service from the maker and enjoy for years the mandolins that he put his heart into making.

High quality wood
To obtain high quality wood, Daigo Ochiai personally visits growers in Europe and elsewhere abroad, and directly picks out lumber from stockyards operated by lumber importers in Japan. He carefully dries imported products for years or even decades in a store on his island. Only then does he carefully select pieces that he uses in his instruments.

Perfect pitch
Music played at the proper pitch is pleasing to both the musician and the listener. A perfect pitch comes from carefully placed bridge and frets.
Because string tension varies according to manufacturer, Daigo Ochiai matches his bridges to the pitch of the strings.

Rich sound and lasting durability
While most mandolin makers make the body and neck separately, and then join the two together, Daigo Ochiai has his own technique for building the body around the neck.
The integrated joint comes as a durable instrument of faultless precision and minimal warping that use the exquisite partner in music activities.

Instruments that improve as they are played
Made with the skill and passion of a master luthier, Ochiai Mandolins produce a deeper sound the longer they are used, thus clearly reflecting the personality of the musician.
They improve as they are played and prove to be a long-lasting partner in music activities.

Scan the QR Code for Ochiai Mandolin price and purchase

Ochiai Mandolin Cello

Mandolin & Guitar
ikegaku

ikegaku is a specialty shop for mandolinists and guitarists.

We deliver the best instruments in the best condition.

When you start playing mandolin or classical guitar, you ask yourself, "What kind of instrument should I buy?" Ikegaku offers a wide range of models from beginner to advanced models from domestic and foreign manufacturers. Since mandolins are highly specialized instruments, our president visits all manufacturers and workshops to confirm the production process so that you can use mandolins with peace of mind. Before shipment, our technical staff performs a final check and adjustment to ensure that the instrument is delivered to the customer in perfect condition.

A wide selection of products that only a specialty shop can offer

We have a wide variety of items necessary for mandolin music activities, including strings and picks, as well as playing supplies, CDs, DVDs, sheet music, and accessories that are normally hard to find.

Reliable after-sales maintenance

The tone and volume of an instrument can vary greatly depending on its management. Aftercare and maintenance after purchase is very important. To ensure that Ikegaku is able to provide the best possible maintenance, our mandolin repair staff is continually improving their skills at the Ochiai Strings Studio. Leave the maintenance of your mandolin to Ikegaku.

Since the days of "Ikeburo Gakkai" (1967 Established), customers have called us "ike-gaku" for short, and therefore we have made our company's official name in 1997 what customers are familiar with.

Mandolin Lesson

We offer lessons by experienced professional performers, offering a wide range of services from those who are inexperienced to those who aspire to master.

We also offer online lessons, and have students from far away including overseas.

ikegaku "in-store live!"

Planning "in-store live" by domestic and international artists, we provide opportunities to experience professional performances in close proximity.

Please visit the Ikegaku website

The Ikegaku website receives about 100,000 hits in a year. Over 8,000 internet shopping orders have been placed in a year. The Ikegaku website offers information on mandolins with a full range of contents, from sales of musical instruments and performance supplies to information on CDs, sheet music, and concerts. The website is translated into English by activating the translate button in your web browser settings.

<https://ikegaku.co.jp>

Bringing the cheer, fun and joy of playing music to the world!

This is what we do at "ikegaku"

Mandolin & Guitar
ikegaku
Japan, Tax-free Shop

3-25-5-01 Nishi-Kobayashi, Seto-ku, Gifu, Gifu 501-0221 Nov Wed Sat 11:00-19:00 Sun 11:00-18:00

I play the mandolin because ...

I truly love the mandolin. I hope that, like me, many people can discover and experience the joy of music through the mandolin, both by listening and by playing it themselves.

How did you learn to play? Teachers? ...

I studied the Kubota mandolin method under Teacher Takashi Kubota in Japan and graduated from the Department of Music majoring in mandolin at Yewon Arts University in South Korea.



Kubota Takashi Conductor and musician

-Born in 1942 in Tokyo, Japan.

-In 1968, he studied conducting under Professor Arthur Gruber at the University of Music Karlsruhe in Germany.

-In 1972, he furthered his studies in conducting at the National University of Music in Vienna under the guidance of Professor Hans Swarowsky.

-After completing six years of studying abroad, Kubota Takashi returned to Japan in July 1974.

-Upon his return, he assumed the role of leading KMA (Kubota Musik Akademie) and began teaching.

-In 1993, he founded the Kubota Philomandolinen Orchester, further contributing to the world of music and conducting.

Kubota Takashi is also an active member of the Japan Society for Rights of Authors, Composers, and Publishers (JASRAC) and serves as an advisor to the Japan Mandolin Union (JMU). He is known for his contributions to various mandolin clubs and orchestras in Japan, including Sophia Mandolino at Jochi (Sophia) University, the Mandolin Club at Meiji High School, the Meiji High School Mandolin Club Alumni Orchestra, the Mandolin Club at Yamawaki High School, and as the music director for the Tamagawa Sei Academy Guitar and Mandolin Club.

I recommend the mandolin because

Mandolin is a classical instrument that anyone can play in a modern society that requires cultural and artistic education throughout life. Mandolin covers a wide range of performances covering solo, quartet, and orchestra, and a variety of performance repertoires ranging from classical to popular music.

I have been inspired to play the mandolin by

How can we inspire children to learn to play the mandolin?



The mandolin instrument needs to be more visible in the surroundings. It would be great if many instruments as affordable as those in the picture next to it were available. Additionally, it would be great if instructional materials are created in an engaging manner, similar to piano textbooks. The most important aspect is an enjoyable teaching method. Regular appearances in the mass media could also be beneficial. Mandolins even appeared in 'The Little Mermaid' movie! If mandolin becomes commonly encountered and enjoyable, it could be integrated into school extracurricular activities. To achieve this, it is important for current mandolin players to engage in a broader range of activities.



This picture was taken when I went to Beijing, China, to teach mandolin.

My band, ensemble, orchestra:

In 2020, founded [LéPé Mandolin Guitar Ensemble](#).

LéPé Mandolin Guitar Ensemble



The ensemble's name, LéPé, is derived from the 12th century French composer and

musician Léonin and Pérotin. Léonin and Pérotin are the best musicians of their time

who developed traditional monophony into polyphony, eventually enabling the

concept of an ensemble. In honor of the two great musicians, the ensemble came up

with the name LéPé using each first letter of the two musicians' names.



I recommend the following videos of me as a mandolin player:

Personal Profile of HK 2021

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3qtIQxAOZw&t=33s>

R.Calace-Romanza Op.134 in e minor

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ieNbouVHOng&t=7s>

R.Calace – Prelude II Op.49 in d minor,, rehearsal (8:49~)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1CEcQ8YqRoM>

J.S.Dwight & A.C.Adam-O Holy Night arranged by Mutoh Rie

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=te_014qLi6g

J.S.Bach - Orchestral Suite No. 3 II. Air arranged by Kubota Takashi

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rET0oZjoN7k>

Kubota Takashi - Waltz for "Mie" Op.30 in G Major

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJ5DHSV34SBM>

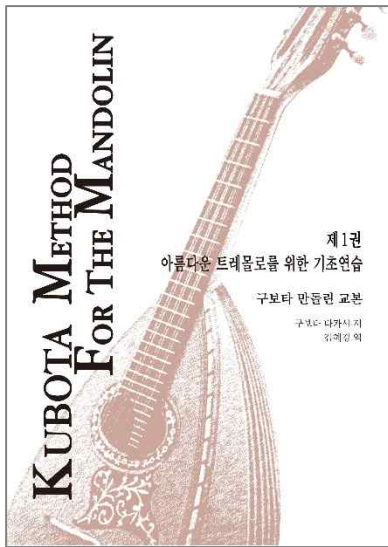
Squid Game : Way back then * Mandolin & Guitar Cover

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5GNQACkEK3Y>

Kubota Method Practice

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mLXrOFIJqeU>

Do you have a special mandolin object? Make a photo of your favorite "mandolin thing" in your home - decoration, artwork, collectables, books, picks, antiques, lucky charm,



In 2021, I translated and published the Kubota Mandolin Method Volume 1. Currently, I am instructing mandolin using this Kubota Method in Korea, Japan, and China.

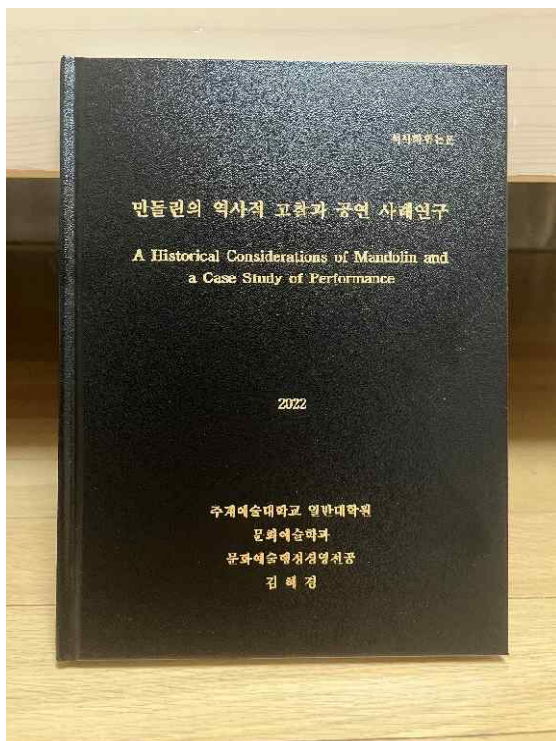
mandolin miniature



This hairpin is identical to the ornament on my instrument. I received it as a gift from the luthier.-
The material of this hairpin is the same as the material of my instrument, made of maple and ebony wood. I also received this as a gift from the luthier.



At the regular concert of LèPé Ensemble in 2022, we performed a tribute to Raffaele Calace. On this occasion, we received a certificate of appreciation from Calace Family.



2022 Master's Thesis 「 A Historical Considerations of Mandolin and a Case Study of Performance」

The abstract of this paper is on the following page.

Abstract

A Historical Considerations of Mandolin and a Case Study of Performance

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Mandolin is a classical instrument that anyone can play in a modern society that requires cultural and artistic education throughout life. Mandolin covers a wide range of performances covering solo, quartet, and orchestra, and a variety of performance repertoires ranging from classical to popular music. Despite its availability and unique charm, mandolin is yet unfamiliar instrument in Korea.

In Europe, mandolin has a history of more than 400 years and enjoyed popularity in the Baroque and Classical era, with mandolin music composed by Vivaldi, Handel, Mozart, Beethoven, and Hummel. In Japan, mandolin was introduced by some Japanese musician who studied in Europe during the mandolin renaissance at the end of the 19th century. Comparing to Europe and Japan, mandolin is not popular yet in Korea. Hence, this study purports to present a performance that strengthens the understandings of mandolin by identifying the historical situation and background of the period when mandolin was popular in Europe and Japan and applying their implications to domestic mandolin performances.

Through the historical study of European and Japanese mandolin, the implications applicable to Korean mandolin performances can be divided into four categories as follows. First, an aspect of musical instruments related to the consumption characteristics of the mandolin instrument and musical characteristics such as playing technique. Second, an aspect of education related to the teaching methods, textbooks, and education faculties to teach mandolin. Third, an aspect of genre related to creative and content-oriented activities and external support activities. Fourth, an aspect of the music market related to school-oriented activities and social-oriented activities.

This study applies the implications of these historical considerations of mandolin to the planning stage of performance production based on the Baroque period, the heyday of mandolin music in Europe with referring to some parts of the classical period where mandolin was popular, and the mandolin renaissance at the end of the 19th century. The performance was evaluated as realizing a program, which was differentiated from existing performances by improved program execution and demonstrating various performance techniques unique to the mandolin. Thereupon with executed performances as research subject, we conducted qualitative case study through in-depth interviews to suggest a direction in which mandolin performances can be converted from performances for mandolin enthusiasts to performances for the general public.

As a result of analyzing the mandolin performance produced through the historical study of mandolin in Europe and Japan, development of mandolin should be driven by nurturing music majors related to mandolin, such as professional performers, teachers and composers who are the core manpower for musical guidance. In particular, the historical examination of Japanese mandolin and the analysis results of the performances carried out in this study clearly suggest that specialization of the mandolin must precede the popularization of the mandolin. In order for the mandolin performance to become active in Korea and furthermore, for the mandolin to become popular, it is necessary to first cultivate school-oriented experts to pursue the specialization of the mandolin within a systematic framework, and based on this, it is necessary to gradually expand the scope.

Keyword: Mandolin History, Mandolin Performance, Mandolin Specialization, Mandolin Popularization