

Five questions to Takashi Tamada, keyharp player from Japan

Tell me about your background in musical terms

“I have played many musical instruments and genres of music – electric guitar, acoustic guitar, double bass, drums, piano, Brazilian percussions and so on. Rock music, classical music, Brazilian music just like Samba and bossa nova, Irish music, improvisation and more.”

What is your connection to Swedish traditional music? How did you get your interest in the music?

“When I was a university student, my friend recommended me a CD. That was Väsen, Swedish folkmusik band. The first sound of the CD knocked me down. I felt like I was struck by lightning.

I love Swedish folkmusik. And I will continue to play Swedish folkmusik throughout my life.”

What are your role models in Swedish traditional music?

“Every Swedish spelman!”



Is there an interest in Swedish traditional music in Japan?

“There is not a big interest in Japan. I think there are many reasons. For example there is almost no information written in Japanese. Swedish folkmusik included the word “Nordic music”, so the attraction of Swedish folkmusik is ambiguous.

I try to translate some books and articles into Japanese personally. And I perform at concerts and dance partys and teaching Swedish Folkmusik. The most important thing is for it to be known more, so I act in many ways.

My dream and goal is that Swedish folkmusik is to be known by more people in Japan, and many people will love it. What a wonderful music it is!”

How was your experience of playing in front of the jury? Will you play for the jury another time, you think?

“I was very nervous in the unusual environment and solemn atmosphere. But this experience is priceless for me. Next time I try to play more relaxed and enjoy the moment.