

Mori, Yoshitaka, Tokyo University of the Arts, Japan

Other Stories and Postcolonial Nostalgia in Japanese Popular Music: Agnes Chan, Teresa Teng and Yong Pil Cho and Their Acceptance in Japan

The paper examines three important transnational singers, who came from Asian region, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Korea and who exceptionally gained popularity in Japanese music scene: Agnes Chan, Teresa Teng and Yong Pil Cho. It also explores the way in which Japanese audiences construct the image of both Japanese and Asian through their music under the postcolonial historical condition in the 1970s-1980s. It is to be noted that their musical styles were always regarded neither as Asian nor as exotic, but often as authentically Japanese, although their identities were definitely seen as Asian. It should also be emphasized that they were accepted in different ways according to their different origins. The paper tries to consider how Japanese audiences accept their music in relation to colonial memory, postcolonial nostalgia, the cold war politics and the negation and amnesia of the WWII in Asia.