




Please use this identifier to cite or link to this item: <https://hdl.handle.net/1959.11/27050>

Title: **Kawaii aesthetics and the exchange between anime and music**

Contributor(s): [Smith, Paul](#)  (author)

Publication Date: 2016

DOI: [10.4324/9781315597027](https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315597027)

Handle Link: <https://hdl.handle.net/1959.11/27050>

Abstract: While many composers find inspiration in the musical works of others, a recent period of my compositional work has been interested not in the musical but in rendering the visual as musical. Going against the dominant musical pedagogy of studying composers and musical techniques, I have looked to Japanese anime, animated cartoons, as my source of artistic influence and found in the shapes, colours, tones and contours of animation everything I need to compose music. An added benefit of this is that it forces a correlation and consideration between the boundaries of artistic languages and sensory media. For a period in 2010 I was specifically interested in the way anime portrayed the Japanese aesthetic known as kawaii, which translates approximately as cuteness or cute. Writing for the Italian pianist Antonietta Lofreddo at this time, I was interested in composing music that explored childhood. As my own childhood was populated with cute anime characters, I took this as my creative impetus. The result was a four movement suite for piano I named the Kawaii Suite. The artistic act of writing four pieces of music drawing on kawaii aesthetics has forced me as a composer to consider the dynamic relationship between music and source material, particularly as the source material in this case is two-fold involving both the kawaii aesthetic more generally and the specific anime characters. To destabilise any formal qualities of authorship that may be used to view my process, I prefer to consider my music from this period as similar to a work of translation, which Zeller defines as 'a work of art emanating from another author's context'.

Publication Type: Book Chapter

Source of Publication: Music's Immanent Future: The Deleuzian Turn in Music Studies, p. 139-148

Publisher: Routledge

Place of Publication: Oxon, United Kingdom

ISBN: 9781472460219
1472460219
9781315597027
9781472460226
1315597020
1472460227

Field of Research (FOR): [190409 Musicology and Ethnomusicology](#)
[190406 Music Composition](#)

Socio-Economic Objective (SEO): [950101 Music](#)

HERDC Category Description: [B1 Chapter in a Scholarly Book](#)

Other Links: <https://www.routledge.com/Musics-Immanent-Future-The-Deleuzian-Turn-in-Music-Studies/Macarthur-Lochhead-Shaw/p/book/9780367229276>

Editor: Editor(s): Sally Macarthur, Judy Lochhead and Jennifer Shaw

Appears in Collections: [Book Chapter](#)
[School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences](#)

Files in This Item:

2 files

File	Description	Size	Format
------	-------------	------	--------

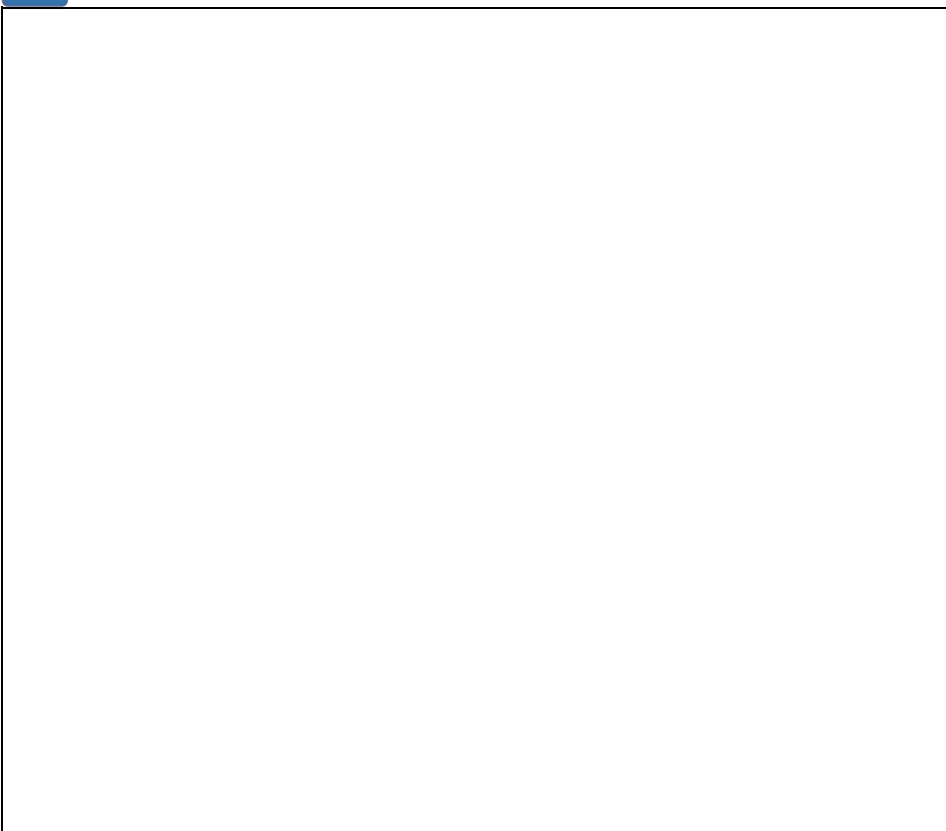
Show full item record

Refman Send via email Endnote Export

Google Scholar™
[Check](#)



Altmetric



Items in Research UNE are protected by copyright, with all rights reserved, unless otherwise indicated.

[Feedback to Research UNE](#) | [Contact Research UNE](#) | [Disclaimer](#) | [Right to information](#) | [Privacy](#) | [Accessibility](#)
University of New England CRICOS Provider Number 00003G | ABN: 75 792 454 315



The University of New England respects and acknowledges that its people, programs and facilities are built on land, and surrounded by a sense of belonging, both ancient and contemporary, of the world's oldest living culture. In doing so, UNE values and respects Indigenous knowledge systems as a vital part of the knowledge capital of Australia.

Bokura Wa Minna Kawai sou 僕らはみんな河合荘; The Kawai Complex Guide to Manors and Hostel Behavior. From Kirei Cake: Usa, a high-school student aspiring to begin a bachelor lifestyle, moves into a new apartment only to discover that he not only shares a room with a perverted roommate that has an obsession for underage girls, but also that another girl, Ritsu, a love-at-first-sight, is living in the same building as well! Kawaii culture and aesthetics are a peculiarity of contemporary Japan and move across mass media, impulse goods, creative industries, and juvenile tendencies. Anime and manga are, in effect, an integral part of the theoretical discourse on kawaii in the two markets considered, as it is discussed accordingly in the second part of the article. profoundly differ between the manifestations of this culture in Japan and the interpretations of it in the countries here considered, whose practitioners are not just receivers but active users who have interpolated the Japanese kawaii aesthetics with local elements, in a process that is still in progress; (3) the socio-demographics and width of the audiences interested: while in Japan the culture of.