

EOS1.2 (X4.192 | EGU26-6347) Summer climate around Germany and a song “In Spring” by F. Schubert: A report of an interdisciplinary lesson practice toward promoting students’ perception of changing climate and understanding of the heterogeneous others

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【 Background of the present study 】

©To promote the students’ ability to perceive how the climate has been changing, and so on, is an essential base for the Climate Change Education in ESD (Education for Sustainable Development).

©Besides, the detailed seasonal cycles show rather different features from region to region, even within middle and higher latitudes (e.g. Fig. 1), and the change in the regional climate could be recognized rather easily as the “distortion of the seasonal cycle”.

→Necessary to promote students’ understanding on the regional difference of the detailed seasonal cycles

→In doing so, interdisciplinary approach with cultural understanding education such as music, and so on, sometimes gives a great help for understanding of the regional climate including the detailed seasonal cycles.

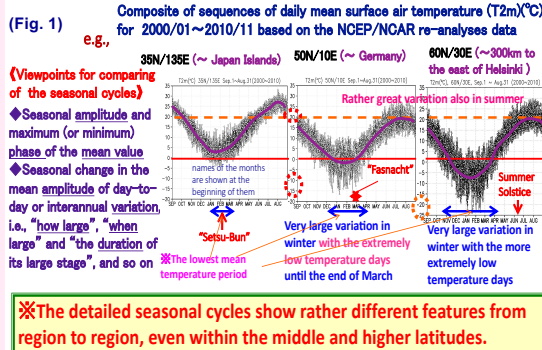
©In addition, selection of the study areas or targets which are not so familiar to the students in their usual lives could also provide considerable advantage for deepening the students’ understanding of the heterogeneous others.

→Based on the above concepts, interdisciplinary approach at the university on a topic of the climate and songs of the special season spring/May around Germany, at the viewpoint of comparison with those around Japan, was introduced at EGU2025. In order to accumulate such kinds of activities, we will focus our attention to the summer climate and the seasonal feeling around Germany expressed in the German Lied “Im Frühling” (In spring) composed by F. Schubert, including the musical expression of that song and the lesson practice at Okayama University in 2022 and 2025 (mainly for 2022 here. Details of this presentation including the lesson practice in 2022 can be found in Kato et al. (2026), although written in Japanese).

【 Comparison of the summer climate between Germany and Japan 】

Around Germany, appearance of the “extremely cold days” with daily mean temperature below about -7°C in winter finally terminates around April and then May, the climax of spring and the beginning of summer, comes. However, during June to August (corresponding to the midsummer there), the seasonal mean temperature is around 20°C, considerably lower than in Kyushu to Kanto of Japan. Furthermore, days with mean temperature of only 10–15°C frequently appear in association with the rather large day-to-day temperature variations (the minimum level of the daily mean temperature around Kyushu to Kanto in “midsummer” is also much higher than around Germany) and the such types of summer lasts from around June to August (Figs. 2 and 3).

On the other hand, while the number of rainy days and thunderstorm days is high around Germany during summer, the total precipitation and “precipitation per a rainy day” are considerably less than in Kyushu to Kanto in the Baiu and midsummer season (Fig. 4). Maybe, this would be also reflected by that the climatologically precipitable water content in summer is only slightly more than half of that in Kyushu to Kanto (Fig. 5).



【 Interdisciplinary lesson practice at Faculty of Education, Okayama Univ. in 2022 】

Title of the lesson: “Human Lives and Environments” (4 days in total, with this activity in the afternoon (about 4 hours) of the third day)
 Instructor: Kuranoshin KATO. (Meteorology) and Isao NAGAOKA (Piano)

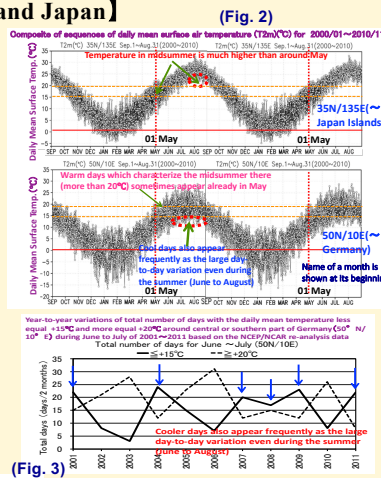
Main Activities (about 70 students took part in this activities and this analysis is based on responses from 66 students):
 1. Details of the climate and seasonal cycle around Germany in association with the seasonal feeling of the special season May and the summer after it were shown, by comparing with those around Japan learned during the first 2.5 days.
 2. Several German lieder such as “Im wunderschönen Monat Mai” (In the especially wonderful month of May) by Schumann, “Andres Maientied (Hexenlied)” (Another May song (Witch’s song)) by Mendelssohn, “Trockne Blumen” (Withering flower) by Schubert, a film music, and so on, were appreciated with attention to the relation between expressions of the songs and their climatic backgrounds, especially for the importance of the word “May”.

After that activity, the German song “Im Frühling” (In spring) composed by F. Schubert was appreciated, paying attention to how the scenes and emotions expressed by the lyrics “all summer long” in the third verse of this song might differ from each other, whether we imagine the climate around Germany or that around Japan. ← We analyzed the students’ descriptions on this question.

【 Remarks on the analysis results of the students’ descriptions for 2022 lesson 】

According to student descriptions, many students imagined him continuing to cherish and think of her in the scene closer to spring in Japan, rather than in the Japan’s summer with very hot days and occasional heavy rain. It’s also noteworthy that a significant number of students felt that the “emotions embedded in the original poem become difficult to grasp when considering Japan’s hot and humid environment”. Furthermore, based on the much greater daily temperature fluctuations around Germany than in Japan, many students imagined the young man continuing to think of her despite these ups and downs. Thus the present activity seems to have provided an opportunity for the students to perceive the climate environments and seasonal feelings quite different from those familiar to them.

However, to consider, for example, what kind of colors and tactile sensations Schubert tried to express as the summer scenery in association with the music “all summer long”, would provide the opportunity for the Japanese students living under a different climate from around Germany to lead the understanding of the heterogeneous others. Therefore, to examine how to delve into musical expression itself during appreciation activities, especially for the students not specialized in music, is an interesting topic for the future. Based on these results we made a lesson practice again in the 2025, which results are now being analyzed.

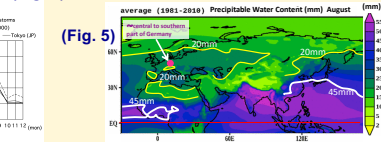
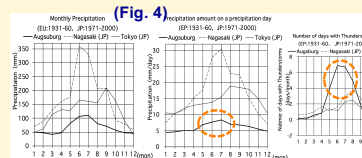


【 “Im Frühling” (In spring) composed by F. Schubert 】

Schubert composed this song in 1826 to a poem by E. Schulze consisting of six stanzas in five lines. It follows the form of a “strophic song with variations”, repeating almost the same melody up to the third verse with varying the accompaniment and other elements in each verse.

In the first and second verses, the song expresses that a young man sits on a hillside where he once spent time with his lover, gazing out at the spring scenery, and remembering the memories of his past love. In particular, the piano accompaniment in the second verse, which incorporates beautiful arpeggios (broken chords) played in sixteenth notes in the right hand, is impressive (Example 1).

The prelude to the third verse modulates to a minor key (to G minor), and the song expresses the pain of the broken love (Example 2). However, the second half of the third verse returns to a major key again (to G major), and the aforementioned accompaniment with the beautiful arpeggios used in the second verse reappears (Example 3). The song then concludes with the lines, “Oh, if only I were a bird in the meadow on that hillside, I would stay on the tree branch there and sing all summer long, reminiscing about the sweet memories of her”.



«Im Frühling» (In spring) DB82 /Music: Franz Peter Schubert, Lyrics: Ernst Schulze		
Ver. 1	Ver. 2	Ver. 3
<p>(Original Lyrics)</p> <p>Stell dir vor an des Hügels Hang, der Himmel ist so klar, das Lächeln spiel ich grünen Tal, wo ich beim ersten Frühlingsthal einst, ach, so glücklich war; wo ich an deiner Seite ging so traulich und so nah, und tief im dankeln Felsenquell den schönen Himmel blau und hell und sie im Himmel sah.</p>	<p>(English meaning of the lyrics by the present authors)</p> <p>I sit still on the hillside, the sky is so clear, the breeze plays in the green valley, where, basking in the early spring sunlight, oh, once I was so happy, where I walked by her side so intimately and so close, and in the deep and dark spring welling up between the rocks, I saw the beautiful sky blue and bright, and her in the sky reflected in that spring.</p>	<p>Es wandern nur sich Will und Wahn, es wechelt Lust und Streit; vorüber fliehet die Liebe Glück, und nur die Liebe bleibe zurück, die Lust und ach, das Leid! O wir sind doch ein Vögelchen nur dort an dem Wasserhang, denn Blied ich auf den Zweigen hier und sing ein süßes Lied von ihr den ganzen Sommer lang.</p>