

### **1996 Kobe Sound Scene CD**

We are daily flooded with many kinds of sound, ranging from noise to pleasant sound, or hardly-noticed to highly-annoying ones. I recorded all such sounds in Kobe for a year. Total number of recording hours may well exceed 400 hours, among which sounds most befitting Kobe to my judgment are compiled in this CD. But, it does not mean that sounds in this CD represent whole of sounds heard in Kobe. Despite my best effort to record as many sounds as possible by sparing time out of my everyday schedule, there are many still missing, which may be featured in the next CD.

Now, for nearly 25 years, I have been enjoying recording sounds from the nature, local festivals, fireworks display, and local train sounds. In 1995 I planned to record sounds in Nishinomiya, where I used to live at that time, for a year. I started with the watch night bell at the Kanno-ji Temple at the start of the year, and planned to continue with the Yakuyoke Festival at Mondo-Yakujin Shrine on January 17; but, it was the day when the Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake occurred. As the rent house was ruined, I moved back to my hometown Kobe, and recording work had to be suspended. Shortly after the quake, things around me were so upset that I could not even think of resuming recording; but, I wished to keep records of the earthquake by somehow making good of my hobby. So, I recorded train announces as railway service was resumed in parts. Announces for otherwise halfway stations that suddenly became terminals were gathered in the CD entitled Record of Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake - Transport Facilities Interrupted. Then it was followed by this CD with sounds recorded in Kobe for a year, including sounds of reconstruction and rehabilitation from earthquake damages.

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