
Members' Forum

Tatsuya Gontani – Lyricist and Music Producer Advocating Anti-War Messages from the Noto Disaster Area

(Graduated from the Faculty of Economics, Class of 1998)

To mark the **80th year since the end of World War II**, a radio program titled **“Connected Memories”**—featuring the voices of war survivors living in the Noto region—was publicly recorded and broadcast from mid-August on eight community FM stations nationwide, beginning with FM Kahoku. The program attracted coverage from major media outlets such as *Yomiuri*, *Mainichi*, *Hokkoku*, *Nishinippon*, *Okinawa Times*, and *NHK*.

The one-hour program was planned at the initiative of **Mr. Gontani**. In the first half, seven war survivors shared their experiences, while the second half featured a dialogue with **Mr. Kunimasa Tokukuni**, who survived the air raids.

As the program's navigator, Gontani has used his international network within the British music scene as a foundation to deliver messages of **disaster recovery**, **regional revitalization**, and **peace through music**.

From October, he began hosting regular music programs on **Tannan Dream Radio (Fukui)** and **FM Hagi (Yamaguchi)**. His existing program, **“Noto: Wind of a New Era”**, which has been airing on FM Kahoku, has now expanded its reach to **FM Tsuyama (Okayama)** and **Tamba Community FM (Hyogo)**.

Gontani began his music career in his **mid-thirties**, starting from participation in the international music SNS **ReverbNation**.

There, he met musicians such as **Bree-Arne Manley** (Australia), **Marco Heimann** (Germany), and **Jimmy Dukelow** (USA).

A decisive turning point in his career came when he met **legendary British producer Stuart Epps**, who has worked with **Led Zeppelin** and **Elton John**.

Their collaborations produced songs such as **“NO ONE,” “THIS WORLD,”** and **“MOTHER.”**

Each of these songs delicately conveys themes such as **the tragedy of war, the sanctity of life, and the loneliness of human existence.**

In particular, the **80th Anniversary of the End of the War commemorative song “I DREAM OF A WORLD,”** released in **June 2025,** has drawn attention as a **message of hope,** envisioning *“a world without bombs, fear, or discrimination”*—with the ongoing **Russia–Ukraine war** in mind.

In recent years, Gontani has also been exploring **co-creation with AI.** His compilation album **“NOW APOLOGY,”** produced using AI technology, features music structured and arranged by AI, while Gontani’s **lyrics form the emotional core** of each piece.

By treating AI not as a **“tool”** but as a **“co-creator,”** he presents a **new form of music** where **technology and human emotion intersect.**

On **New Year’s Day 2024,** the **Noto Peninsula Earthquake** struck. At his home in **Nanao City,** he experienced a **strong tremor of seismic intensity 6+.** Part of his house was damaged, and despite continued water outages, he chose to **take refuge on the second floor** with his mother.

Afterward, he devoted himself to **earthquake relief efforts**—organizing a **charity concert in March** and a **reconstruction support event in Saitama in May.**

He also **produced special radio programs** such as *“Noto: Wind of a New Era”*, distributing them to community FM stations nationwide, **combining the power of music and broadcasting** to support recovery efforts.

Currently, while **living in temporary housing,** he continues to compose songs to **celebrate local culture and promote regional revitalization.**

For example, his works such as **“View of the Ancients”** and **“Bora Waiting Tower”**, inspired by Noto’s **nature and people’s daily lives**, have been used in **local schools and community events**, contributing to **the spiritual recovery of his hometown** through music.