



HATTORI Ryoichi 服部良一 (1907.10.1–1993.1.30)

Music

Son of a poor clay doll maker in Osaka, Hattori joined a church choir at the age of six and started playing western instruments. He joined the Izumoya Young People's Band which did publicity for an eel shop at the age of 16. Three years later, he was recruited by the Osaka Symphony Orchestra to play the oboe and gained the recognition of Emmanuel Metter, the conductor of the orchestra at that time, who offered him private lessons on western music theories; he referred to him as his 'life mentor'. Hattori was hired as a composer by a record company at the age of 24. He joined the Columbia Company five years later and began composing music for Toho Co., Ltd. in 1938. He was first credited in *Iron Wrist City* (1938), followed by *China Night* (1940), *My Nightingale* (Manchukuo Film Association/Toho, 1943), etc. He met Yao Min and other musicians when he visited Shanghai as a tour member in 1938.

After the war, Hattori composed songs for the Japanese film *The Lantern of Love* (1951), starring Bai Guang, who sang the songs in Japanese. Later, his ties with Yao brought him to Hong Kong, and he wrote music for a number of films produced by Motion Picture and General Investment Co Ltd (MP & GI), such as *Miss Secretary* (1960), *The Wild, Wild Rose* (1960), *A Night in Hong Kong* (1961), *Father Takes a Bride* (1963) and *Because of Her* (1963). *The Wild, Wild Rose*, a collaboration with Yao Min, was considered a classic. In 1968, Hattori composed the music for the first four films that Inoue Umetsugu made for Shaw Brothers (Hong Kong) Ltd, including *Hong Kong Nocturne* (1967), *Operation Lipstick* (1967), *King Drummer* (1967) and *Hong Kong Rhapsody* (1968). After Yao Min died in 1967, Hattori felt that the approach of local films had changed and left Hong Kong for good.