

Tokyo Dontaku

Japanese

PRONUNCIATION: TOH-kyoh dohn-TAH-koo

Translation: Peaceful Tokyo

Background" Madelynne Green learned this dance in Hawai'i and taught it widely among the International Recreational Folk Dance groups of the US in the 60's.

The Obon festivals are the festivals of the ancestors celebrated all over Japan and in Buddhist temples all over the world in July and August. There are many Obon Odori (Obon Dances). This is where the tradition of paper lanterns sent out on the water comes from, to assist the souls which had come to earth return to "heaven".

Music is in 4/4 and the music can be found in many places today.

Formation: Circle of solo dancers facing CCW (LOD).

Style: The style is effected by the traditional kimono. Women danced with their toes slightly turned inward and the steps are small. All movements are controlled and graceful.

Meas.

Movements

1-8

Intro and no movement

1	Walk forward R (1), L.(3) Hands clap in front of chest on each step, cross the hands in front of the chest (4)
2	Rock forward on R(1)with bent knee, back on L(2), step on R beside L(3) hold4 (Quick-quick-slow). While the hands sweep down and out, palms face back(1), sweep up returning to chest(2), and clap on (3), hold 4.
3	The motion depicts paddling your canoe. Walk forward L(1), R(3) while both hands act as paddles brush back past the L hip (1-2), brush back past the R hip (3-4)
4	Step forward quick-quick-slow, L(1), R(2), L(3) with your hands up at eye level, L hand pulls towards your L ear while the R palm pushes away from you (1), reverse hands (2), reverse third time (3), hold 4
5	The motion depicts the trees. Step R with toe pointed outside, bending knees (1-2); straightening knees L heel is brought up behind to raise "kimono" off of floor (3-4); The tops of the trees are the arms down at the knee, touch finger tips together, sweep them up sideways to touch the finger tips together, palms up.
6	Repeat action of meas 5 to ctr with opp ftwk.
7	Motion depicts tapping the water from your sleeve. Stepping R,L,R, (Q-Q-S)turn slowly to face out of cir while R hand is held at head level, palm bwd, and L hand is held under R elbow as if tapping water off "kimono sleeve" from (cts 1,2,3);
8	Repeat action of meas 7 to ctr with opp ftwk and handwk.

Repeat entire dance from beg.

Presented by Andy Taylor at Door County 2020