

Dondokomonde moriagare (Japan)

“Dondoko” is the onomatopoeic word for drumming, much like the English “ratta-tat-tat” or “rumpa-pa-pum”. “Moriagare” translates roughly as “Let’s have a Party!” This is a modern Japanese dance to modern music. It is done to a children’s song sung by a cartoon-like character who is a taiko drummer.

Pronunciation: dohn-doh-koh-mohn-deh mohr-ee-ah-gah-reh

Music: 4/4 meter *Japanese Music CD , Track 9*

Formation: Individuals dancing freely, hands free, facing ctr.

Steps & Chon: A hard, long clap

Styling: All arm movements mimic those of a taiko drummer and are strong and forceful.



Meas 4/4 meter Pattern

4 meas INTRODUCTION. Stand facing ctr with arms at sides. Start with words “Dondo...”

I. STEP-TOGETHER-STEP, FACE-OUT; STEP-TOGETHER-STEP, FACE-IN.

1 Step R to R (ct 1); step L next to R (ct 2), step R to R (ct 3); hop on R and a half-turn R to face away from ctr (ct 4). Arms are held close to body, bent at elbows. Arms swing bkwd (ct & before 1), swing fwd (ct 1), bkwd (ct 2), fwd (ct 3), chon (ct 4).

2 Step L to L (ct 1); step R next to L (ct 2), step L to L (ct 3); hop on L and a half-turn L to face ctr (ct 4). Repeat arm movements described in meas 1.

II. DRUMMING IN PLACE

1 Step R fwd (ct 1); step bkwd L (ct 2); step R next to L (ct 3); hold (ct 4). Arms mimic playing a drum with R (ct 1), then L (ct 2), then place imaginary drum sticks on shdrs (ct 3); hold (ct 4).

2 Repeat meas 3 with opp ftwk and handwork.

3 Step fwd R (ct 1); hold (ct 2); step fwd L (ct 3); hold (ct 4). Arms: L fist at waist, R pushes up to hit a high drum (ct 1-2); repeat with opp hands (cts 3-4).

4 Step R to R (ct 1); touch L next to R (ct 2); step L to L (ct 3); touch R next to L (ct 4). Meanwhile, arms held head height and slightly fwd, twist out at wrists (cts 1-2) and twist in at wrists (cts 3-4). This mimics flourishing of drum sticks.

III. CIRCLE AWAY FROM CENTER AND BACK

1 Three steps (R, L, R) in CW half-circle (ct 1-3), ending facing out; hop on R while R hand pushes out and up strongly to straight arm and yell “Hoh!” (ct 4).

2 Three steps (L, R, L) completing CW circle to face ctr (L, R, L) (cts 1-3); hop on L while L hand pushes out and up strongly to straight arm and yell “Hoh!” (ct 4).

3-4 Stand facing ctr, clapping pattern twice: Cho-Chon, wait, Chon (meas 3); Cho-Chon, wait, Chon (meas 4).

Sequence: Introduction, Fig I, Fig II, Fig III.

Corrected 9/4/2012

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