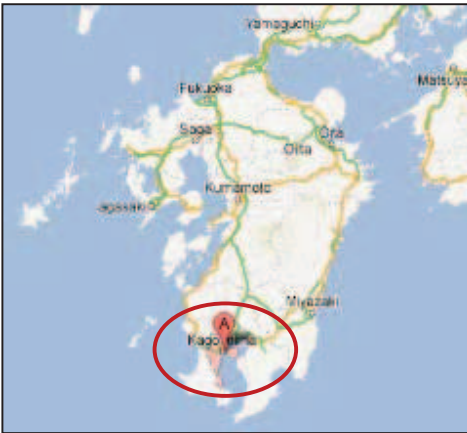


Kagoshima Ohara Bushi

(Kagoshima prefecture, Japan)



The song is called simply “Ohara Bushi” by the locals but “Kagoshima” is added to differentiate it from other Owara songs such as “Etchu Owara Bushi” and “Tsugaru Ohara Bushi.” The origin of the song is “Yassa Bushi,” which was sung by samurais in Yasuhisa on the front lines during battles.

In the Taisho Era (1912-26), a Geisha named Ippachi made this song popular throughout the local Geisha community. Another Geisha, Kiyomi, recorded it around 1933 and it became quite popular all over Japan. At that time, a dance was choreographed for Geisha performance.

The origin of the dance is unknown, but we do know it changed from an energetic, morale-boosting, battlefield song to a labor song sung during soil compacting to lay the foundation for buildings. The dance movements, opening hands from partially clenched fist, as well as the subtle kick steps, are mimicking the pulling and releasing of the rope to compact soil, and removing dirt from clothing.

As a part of the preservation, this particular version is certified as the city’s official dance by Kagoshima City’s Department of Tourism and folklore division.

Pronunciation: ka-goh-shee-mah oh-hah-rah buh-shee

Music: 2/4 meter *Japanese Music CD, Track 5*

Formation: Circle of dancers traveling CCW.

Steps & Styling: Rhythmical and energetic. Posture is straight, without shifting the body either right and left. Hand motions include a closed fist and an open palm. M use larger movements, W more demure.

Cho: A short, soft clap Chon: A hard, long clap

Tate kazashi: R arm extended fwd at shldr height, palm down. L arm is bent at elbow with palm facing twd face. Can be done with arm pos reversed.

Suihei Biraki: Raise arms from the sides out to shldr level on each side.

Nagashi: Arms swing together and parallel, from upper right side to lower left side or from upper left side to lower right side. Fingers flick open at end of each arm movement.

Meas 2/4 meter

Pattern

INTRODUCTION.

Footwork

Hands

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | Hold (no action) | |
| 2 | Hold (cts 1, 2, 3); flick R ft behind (cts 4) | Two quick <u>Cho</u> at waist height (ct 1, &);
One <u>Chon</u> at waist height (ct 3); arms comes down to side (ct 4). |

Kagoshima Ohara Bushi — continued

I. FIGURE I.

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1-2 Step R across L (ct 1); flick L ft behind (ct 2); repeat 3 times changing ftwk.
<i>Note:</i> Each step is slightly diagonal.</p> <p>3 Touch R twd ctr (ct 1); flick R up behind (ct 2); step R (ct 3); flick L up behind (ct 4). Each step is slightly diagonal.</p> <p>4 Repeat meas 4 with opp ftwk</p> <p>5 Step R fwd (cts 1, 2); step L fwd (ct 3); step back R (ct 4).</p> <p>6 Step L bkwd (cts 1, 2); step R bkwd, no wt (cts 3, 4)</p> <p>7 Step R fwd (cts 1, 2); step L fwd (cts 3, 4)</p> <p>8 Step R behind L, toe twd ctr, body twd ctr, knees bent (cts 1, 2); hold (cts 3-4).</p> <p>9 Hold.</p> | <p>Raise both hands to shldr height, palms out with open fingers (ct 1); lower both hands straight down (ct 2); repeat 3 times</p> <p>Swing both arms to shldr height, palms down, over extended ft, flicking fingers out (ct 1-2); repeat cts 1-2 (cts 3-4).</p> <p>Repeat meas 4 to other side of body</p> <p><u>Tate kazashi</u> Swing arms fwd to shldr height, flicking fingers (ct 1); closing fingers, bring hands slightly back (ct 2); repeat to opp side.</p> <p><u>Nagashi</u> Swing arms down on L side at hip, (ct 1); bring hands across body (ct 2); repeat to opp side.</p> <p><u>Suihei Biraki</u> Raise arms to shldr height, elbows out, fingers together (ct 1); open arms out to sides (ct 2) ; bring arms up (ct 3); <u>Chon</u> at waist height (ct 4)</p> <p>Raise R arm up (ct 1); lightly slap R thigh (ct 2); repeat on opp side (cts 3, 4).</p> <p>Swing arms to waist height (ct 1); two <u>Cho</u> (cts 1, 3); hold (ct 4).</p> |
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Lyrics

Hana-wa Kirishima, Tabako-wa Kokubu
Moete agaru-wa, Oharaha Sakurajima
<a-yoi-yoi-yoi-ya-sa-to>

Ame-mo furanumi Somuta-gawa nigoru
Isikiharara-no Oharaha kesho-sui

Sakurajima kayo watasi-no kokoro
Koishi koishi-de Oharaha Hate-ga nai

Sakurajima-niwa kiri-ga kakaru
Wata-ya ohan-ga Oharaha kini kakaru

Kawaigarare-te neta yo-mo gozaru
Naite akashita Oharaha yo-mo gozaru

Saigo Takamori, oira-no aniki
Kuni-no tamenara Oharaha shinu-to iuta

Mieta mieta-yo matsubara goshi-ni
Maru-no Ju-no-ji-no Oharaha ho-ga mieta

Presented by Iwao Tamaoki

