

SOMA BON-UTA — Fukushima Pref. —

Soma is located in the north west of Fukushima Pref. During the bad harvests of Tenmei and Tenpo in the eighteenth centuries, many farmers in Soma died or left their farms. Thereafter the Buddhist temple has held offerings to the departed spirits on Urabon and sung the Bon song. The origin of this dance is unknown but it has been danced by a great many, not only in Soma but throughout Japan, for its lovely simplicity

Formation; Single circle, facing the center of the circle

Direction; Moving C C W

Introduction; Start dance after "YOI YOI YOI TONA"

- 1 Clap hands twice Cho chon 1-2
- 2 Step to the L with L ft. point R toe in the back of L ft. arms SOE AKEKAZASHI L. 3-4
- 3 Step R ft. fwd. to the center, point L toe back of R ft. arms SOE AKEKAZASHI R. 5-6
- 4 Step L ft. bwd, point R toe beside L ft. arms NAGASHI L 7-8
- 5 Facing C C W step R ft. point L toe in the back of R ft. arms RYOTE AKEKAZASHI 9-10
- 6 Turning the body toward the center of the circle, step L ft. crossing R ft. then step R ft. to R and finish by closing L ft. to R ft. arms SUIHEI BIRAKI 11-12

