

## Tajimi ko uta

(Japan)

Tajimi ko uta (tah-jee-mee koh tah) is one of the best known dances from Tajimi, a city of 85,000 population. Located in the Gifu Prefecture of Japan, it is famous for its manufacturing and exporting of ceramic dishes and tiles. Ko uta refers to a short simple song sung to the rhythm of a shamisen and belongs to the genre of Hogaku (traditional Japanese music).

Tajimi ko uta is danced traditionally during Bon Odori and also at a civic festival which is held in November and celebrates the local industries and cultural activities. Bon Odori, meaning *festival dances*, occurs from July 27th to August 22nd each year. During this period it is thought that the ancestral spirits return to earth. To entertain and welcome the spirits, people celebrate their return by dancing each evening in the streets. It is regarded as an important tourist attraction as well and every one is encouraged to join in. During the period of Bon (August 13th - 15th) dancing occurs all night long. Only on August 16th is the dancing done in front of shrines - the traditional location.

Tajimi ko uta is a relatively new dance. Its lyrics and melody were composed around 1933 and they tell of the richness of nature and the ceramic industry of Tajimi City. It was presented by Mr. Iwao Tamaoki at the University of the Pacific Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 1996. Mr. Tamaoki is well-known as a folk dance teacher, being the Director of the Japanese Folk Dance Division in the Japan Folk Dance Association, the Director of the Gifu Dance League and Chairman of the Tajimi Folk Dance Club.

Cassette: Japanese Dances, Stockton 1996 Side A/2. 4/4 meter

Formation: Individuals in a circle facing ctr, hands at sides. Fingers are together with the thumb close to the palm. When making a fist, wrap fingers over the thumb.

The cts of the meas in each section are accumulated in order to match the cts in the picture diagrams (on pg 4). The number of each picture diagram is listed in parentheses beside the meas it illustrates.

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Measures	4/4 meter	PATTERN
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### INTRODUCTION Instrumental

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| 1   |     | Hold, no action (cts 1-4). Hands down at sides.   |
| 2   | (1) | Facing ctr, hold with wt on both ft (ct 5); shift wt to L (ct 6). Hands: Clap hands twice at chest level (cts 5,&): hold (ct 6).  |
|     | (2) | Turning on L ft 1/4 to face LOD, close R to L (no wt) while clapping hands (ct 7); lower hands to sides and slightly back of body (ct 8).   |
| 3-4 | (3) | Do 4 slow walks fwd in LOD starting R (1 step per 2 cts). Hands: Move hands in an upward motion and clap in front of body at chest level (ct 9); swing hands down to sides and slightly back, arms straight (ct 10); repeat cts 9-10 three times (cts 11-16). |

PART A Vocal

- 1 (4) Facing LOD, step fwd on R (cts 1-2).  
Hands - Soenobashi R: Extend R arm fwd with palm down, finger tips of L hand on upper part of R elbow (ct 1); hold (ct 2).
- (5) Step fwd on L (cts 3-4).  
Hands - Soenobashi L: Opp hand pos from cts 1-2.
- 2 (6) Step on R to R (ct 5); hold (ct 6).  
Hands: Touch thighs with palms (ct 5); hold (ct 6).
- (7) Turning to face slightly L of LOD, bend R knee and touch L toe beside R heel (ct 7); hold (ct 8).  
Hands - Ryote Ake Kazashi: Move hands out to the side and up forming a large open circle fwd of the head, above eye level (ct 7); turn hands at wrists so that palms face up (ct 8).
- 3 (8) Step on L to L (ct 9); hold (ct 10).  
Hands: Repeat meas 2, cts 5-6 (touch thighs).
- (9) Turning to face slightly R of LOD, bend L knee and touch R toe beside L heel (ct 11); hold (ct 12).  
Hands - Ryote Ake Kazashi: Repeat meas 2, cts 7-8.
- 4 (10) Step bkwd on R (ct 13); hold (ct 14).  
Hands - Fusenagashi R: Move both hands to R side and then bkwd as if rowing a boat (cts 13 - 14).
- (11) Step bkwd on L (ct 15); hold (ct 16).  
Hands - Fusenagashi L: Row on L side (cts 15 - 16).
- 5 (12) Circling 1/2 CW, walk 4 steps beg R (cts 17-20).  
Hands - Royte Ake Kazashi (Big Circle): Move arms to sides (R on R side, L on L) and slightly behind body (ct 17); move arms low in front of body and cross wrists (ct 18); with wrists still crossed, begin to raise arms up (cts 19-20).
- 6 (13) Facing RLOD, walk 3 steps fwd beg R (cts 21-23); close L to R with wt (ct 24).  
Hands - Royte Ake Kazashi (Big Circle): Circle hands up and out to sides (cts 21-22); end with hands by sides (ct 23); touch palms on thighs (ct 24).
- 7 (14) Step on R to R and sway to R, leaving L in place (cts 25-26).  
Hands (bell clap): Lean slightly fwd and let hands hang straight down. Clap L hand to R hand in front of body letting arms swing freely to R (cts 25-26).
- (15) Step on L swaying to L (cts 27-28).  
Hands: Repeat opp arm movement of cts 25,26 (R hand claps the L). (cts 27-28).
- 8 (16) Repeat meas 7, cts 25-28 (cts 29-32).

PART B Vocal

- 1 (17) Turning to face LOD on 1st step, walk 4 steps fwd beg R (cts 1-4).  
Hands - Royte Ake Kazashi (Big Circle): Hands make a Big Circle as in Part A, cts 17-22 but take only 4 cts (not 6 cts).

- 2 (18) Walk 3 steps fwd beg R in LOD (cts 5-7); close L to R with wt (ct 8).  
Hands - Small Circle (bowl): Arms cross in front of body and circle up as in Big Circle (cts 5-6); hands describe a small circle at shldr height ending with hands formed as if holding a small bowl (cts 7-8).
- 3 (19) Turning to face diag out of circle, touch R heel diag fwd R (ct 9); hold (ct 10).  
Hands - Fuji Yama: Finger tips touch slightly above head height to form the peak of the mountain; thumbs almost touch to form the base of the mountain (ct 9); hold (ct 10).  
Touch R heel diag fwd R again (ct 11); step on R beside L (ct 12).  
Hands - Fuji Yama: Hands remain same as in cts 9-10 (cts 11-12).
- 4 (20) Turning to face slightly in twd ctr, touch L heel diag fwd L (ct 13); hold (ct 14).  
Touch L heel diag fwd L again (ct 15); step on L beside R (ct 16).  
Hands - Fuji Yama: Hands remain same as in cts 9-10 (cts 13-16).

### PART C Vocal

- 1 (21) Joining hands in V-pos in a closed circle and facing R of ctr, walk in LOD 3 steps beg R (cts 1-3); lift L ft beside R ankle (ct 4).
- 2 (22) Turning to face L of ctr, walk in RLOD 3 steps beg L (cts 5-7); lift R ft beside L ankle (ct 8).
- 3-4 (23) Facing ctr and releasing hands, slowly walk bkwd 3 steps beg R (1 step per 2 cts) (cts 9-10, 11-12, 13-14).  
Hands - Tate Kazashi: Extend R arm fwd at shldr level with palm twd floor, bend L arm and turn palm of hand twd face (cts 9-10); repeat with opp hand movement (R palm twd face) (cts 11-12); repeat original hand movement (cts 13-14).  
Instrumental music
- (24) Close L beside R with wt (ct 15); hold (ct 16).  
Hands - Unite: With arms parallel to floor and elbows bent, place R forearm on top of L of forearm (ct 15); hold (ct 16).
- 5 (25) Step R,L fwd twd ctr (cts 17,18); close R beside L (ct 19); hold (ct 20).  
Hands - Unite: Same as cts 15-16.

60 meas Repeat dance 3 times, each time omitting meas 1 of the Introduction (beg with the claps). (Intro meas 2-4, Parts A, B, C).

### ENDING

- 1-4 Facing ctr of circle, repeat Introduction, meas 2 (claps).

Note: Picture diagrams are on next page.

## 多治見小唄 (岐阜県)

<p>Single circle FC/COH (7)</p> <p>Direction LOD</p> <p>INTRO</p> <p>1-4 WAIT:</p>	<p>RYOTE AKE KAZASHI</p> <p>✓ Tch</p>	<p>Hands Swing R</p>	<p>Part C</p> <p>Circle R 3</p> <p>Join Hands</p>
<p>cho/choh</p>	<p>L SIDE</p>	<p>Swing L</p>	<p>Circle L 3</p>
<p>chon</p> <p>R fc 1/4 TR</p> <p>LOD</p>	<p>RYOTE AKE KAZASHI</p> <p>✓ Tch</p>	<p>Repeat</p> <p>25 — 28</p>	<p>R</p> <p>TATE KAZASHI</p> <p>BK</p> <p>R 3</p>
<p>clap raise</p> <p>FD 4</p>	<p>FUZE NAGASHI</p> <p>R</p> <p>BK 14</p>	<p>PART B</p> <p>右 4</p>	<p>CL</p> <p>Unite</p>
<p>Song</p> <p>R</p> <p>SOE NOBASHI</p> <p>R</p>	<p>FUZE NAGASHI</p> <p>L</p> <p>BK 16</p>	<p>bowl</p> <p>R 3</p> <p>CL (4)</p>	<p>R</p> <p>FD, 2, CL</p> <p>arms unite</p>
<p>SOE NOBASHI</p> <p>L</p>	<p>RYOTE AKE KAZASHI</p> <p>R around</p> <p>Fe/RLod</p>	<p>Fuji Yama</p> <p>1. R heel</p> <p>2.</p>	<p>Repeat</p> <p>(INT 5-16 &amp; PRT A~C)</p> <p>END</p> <p>FC/COH. Rep INT 5-8</p>
<p>R SIDE</p>	<p>R</p> <p>FD 4</p> <p>Fe/RLod</p>	<p>Fuji Yama</p> <p>1. L heel</p> <p>2.</p>	