

Gujou Odori Harukoma

(Gifu Prefecture, Japan)

The "Gujo Odori" festival is one of the three most famous traditional dance festivals in Japan. The town of Gujo-hachiman (Hachiman is a town in the center of Gujo district in Gifu prefecture) is surrounded by mountains and the Yoshida River. There is no other town where folk music is so popular. From early July to early September, there are many folklore events almost every night. Especially at Obon festival (a traditional summer festival in which the Japanese honor their ancestors) from August 13-16, the people dance all night. The sight of more than 20,000 people dancing together in a trancelike state is a real thrill of folklore.



The people of this region have a special love for horses, and the lords encouraged horsemanship and horse trading among its population. The tradition is still alive today. This dance mimics the movement of horses while riding.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?NR=1&feature=endscreen&v=07U3rUadS7Y>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=endscreen&NR=1&v=5Yp47zd_NGQ

Pronunciation: goo-joh oh-dohr-ee hah-roo-koh-mah

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

Formation: Individual dancers facing ctr, hands at sides. Dance moves CW. M begin with ft farther apart than W.

Steps & Styling: Cho: a short, soft clap of the hands; Chon: a hard, long clap of the hands.

<u>Meas</u>	<u>4/4 meter</u>	<u>Pattern</u>
2 meas	<u>INTRODUCTION</u> . No action.	
	<u>Footwork</u>	<u>Hands</u>
I.	<u>FIGURE I</u> – The Rider	
1	Facing R of ctr, touch R diag fwd (ct 1); bring R back twd L ankle (ct 2); repeat cts 1-2 (cts 3-4). Take weight on ct 4. Note: This movement is a fwd kick, with no up and down movement.	Cross arms in front of chest with clenched fist, R arm over L (ct 1); open arms to sides and slightly down (ct 2). Repeat cts 1-2 (cts 3-4) but with L arm crossed over R.
2	Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk, except touch L (ct 4); step fwd L (ct &)	Repeat with opp handwork (L arm over R)
	<i>Note: This mimics the tightening of the horse's reins.</i>	



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II. FIGURE II – The Horse

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| 1 | Facing and moving CW, step R in front of L while bending slightly fwd and lifting L up in back (cts 1); step L in place facing ctr, hop on L as R lifts across L (ct 3); step on R next to L (ct 4). | Arms start at head height and move downward, but not bkwd, hands in fists (cts 1-2); hands come up and clap in front (ct 3); arms move back up to head height (ct 4). |
| 2 | Step L in front of R lifting L slightly behind (ct 1); step back onto R (ct 2); hop on R while lifting L (ct 3); step L next to R (ct 4). | Same arm movements as meas 1 except on ct 4, hands come up level with shldr. |

Note: This mimics lifting reins from the horse's neck.

Sequence: Repeat from the beginning until music slows and ends.

Presented by Iwao Tamaoki

Map of Japan & Gifu

