

Shan Di Shang Yue Wu¹

(Taiwan)

Pronunciation: Shan(1) Di(4) Shang(3) Yue(4) Wu(3)

Background: This dance was choreographed based on the dance steps of Taiwanese aboriginals, who live in mountain regions. Thus, this is one of the Taiwanese “mountain dances.” In the title, “Shan” means “mountain,” “Shan Di” means “mountain area,” “Shang” means “appreciate,” “Yue” means “moon,” “Shang Yue” means “enjoy moonlight,” and “Wu” means “dance.” Therefore, “Shan Di Shang Yue Wu” means “The dance of enjoying moonlight in mountain regions.”

Choreographer: 易天羽、張慶三 (1972)²

Music: $\frac{2}{4}$ (2:40)

Formation: Circle of individual dancers, facing LOD at the beginning, with hands held around the height of waistline.

Steps:

Stomp-Close (in this dance) (2 cts):

Facing ctr, stomp R with slight hip movement to R and shake hands vigorously to make ringing sound if wearing bells (1). Step L beside R (2). Do this sequence with a little movement twd LOD.

Step-Close (in this dance) (2 cts):

Right Step-Close: Step R (1) and close L to R with wt remaining on R (2).

Left Step-Close: Step L (1) and close R to L with wt remaining on L (2).

Mountain Side-Progress Step (in this dance) (4 cts):

Facing ctr, holding hands in V-position, cross R in front of L and bend upper body fwd (1). Step L in place and straighten up the body (2). Step R bkwd with arms raised to between waist and shldr ht (usually a little above the waist) with the body turned 45 degrees twd LOD (3). Step L fwd and move twd LOD (4). *Mountain Side-Progress Step* is unique, but popular, in Taiwanese mountain dances. This step is similar to the grapevine step, progressing toward LOD. Some variations have more vigorous motions, especially on the 3rd beat.

(Cont.)

¹ 山地賞月舞.

² This dance was choreographed by Ms. 易天羽 (pronounced Yi Tian-Yu) and later revised by Mr. 張慶三 (Ching-Shan Chang).

Meas Pattern

Introduction (12 meas, 24 cts)

1-12 Hold.

Figure I (6 meas, 12 cts)

- 1- 3 Facing LOD, bend upper body slightly to look twd the ground in front of the dancer. Starting R, walk three steps, with upper body gradually straightening up (1-3). Point L beside R, with upper body slightly bending bwrđ and eyes slightly raised (4). Step back L, with upper body slightly bending fwd (5). Close R to L (6).
- 4- 6 Repeat Meas. 1 to 3.

Figure II (5 meas, 10 cts)

- 1- 5 Release hands. Turn toward ctr. Lift hands. Do *Stomp-Close* 5 times. At each stomping step, turn wrists and shake individual hands to ring bells, if wearing bells.

Figure III (4 meas, 8 cts)

- 1- 2 Face ctr and keep both knees and upper body slightly bent. Do a *Right Step-Close* and clap hands at the R lower side of body (1-2). Do a *Left Step-Close* and clap hands at the L lower side of body (3-4).
- 3- 4 Leap R on spot and point L heel fwd, with upper body turned slightly bwrđ and hands open at sides (5). Hold (6). Straighten the upper body, put hands on the waist with palms facing bwrđ, and, starting L, step three times on spot (7&8).

Figure IV (8 meas, 16 cts)

- 1- 8 Join hands and do *Mountain Side-Progress Step* four times, moving hands naturally.

Figure V (4 meas, 8 cts)

- 1- 4 Do *Stomp-Close* 4 times with hands moving vigorously bwrđ and back in V-position.

Repeat Fig. I through Fig. V four times.

Reference: Chang, C.-S. (ed.), Oct. 1985, *中國土風舞暨創作舞全集*, p.37, 眾文圖書公司, Taipei, Taiwan. (Syllabi written in Chinese)

Note: The dance notes are written by Wen-Li Chiang³ and edited by Nancy Atwood. Copyright ©2009. Anyone is welcome to make copies for references or for non-commercial teaching or studying purposes.

³ 江文里.