

Bamba Odori

The story behind Bamba from:

<https://www.koloajodo.com/2016/06/08/bamba-odori/>

Koloa Jodo Mission – Buddhist Temple, Koloa, Kauai, Hawaii

"Banba Odori" is a popular folk song in Nobeoka, Miyazaki Prefecture which is located in the island of Kyushuu. This Japanese word "Banba" came from "baba" meaning "horse-riding ground" where a big Bon dance was once held to wish for the good harvest of rice. Then Bon Dance at the horse ground(baba) came to be called "Bamba Odori." As you know, "odori" means "dancing."

This song talks about beautiful scenery and rich history of Nobeoka City which was developed as a castle town. The castle name is Nobeoka-jo, known as "Shiroyama (castle hill)". It has had a bell tower which let people know the time, six times a day. Therefore this song invites people to come to listen to this bell in the first verse. Also this song mentions a famous Tanka (Japanese short poem) Poet, Bokusui Wakayama has left excellent poems about his memory of this castle.

The second verse is about beautiful nature in Nobeoka. Two outstanding rivers of Gokase and Oose, run through the town to pour into the harbor. Then there are famous Onsen (hot springs) of "Hoori" and "Kitagawa". On the river, there is huge fish trap called "Yana" and houseboat, too, to enjoy dining. It should be a good experience to eat delicious fresh grilled "Ayu" by the river.

The third verse is about current scenery of Nobeoka. There is a beautiful mountain hill called "Atagoyama" which is selected one of the best 100 mountains in Japan. From there, you can enjoy sceneries of four directions. In the east, you'll see Oonada which is known as a very rough ocean and in the west, there are range of mountain hills. Then in the south, there are many terraced fields and six giant factories in the north. Currently, Nobeoka is famous as an industrial area of Japan.

Then, this song invites people to stop by at Nobeoka when they come to Miyazaki.

At the Oregon Buddhist Temple we call this the backwards dance because sometimes we face to the back in the circle and move "backwards" in the circle. Then we turn and face forward but step backwards. At the end, you are standing behind where you started. A little tricky but we love it.

Video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ijIip3PnD7M&list=PLkeYL6A2MrBSVoMr2SShTA4C_sbfgvs_G&index=14&t=0s

Lyrics:

Romaji and Translation from Kapaa_Waimea 2015 Video

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9KMU0_OO25M

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| 1. Kane ga naru naru shiroyama no kane ga
(nya kore se)
Are wa sambyaku nen no toki utsu kane yo

Machi no rekishi hisomete hibiku

Kajin Bokusui osanai koro no
Kokoro itoshimi meika o nokosu
(yaatose, saatose) | 1. The sound of bell at Shiroyama (Castle Hill) rings out
all over the city
(nya kore se)
That bell has informed us of the time for over three
hundred years
History of the town is hidden in the resound of the
bell
The Poet, Bokusui Wakayama, recalled his childhood
and has left wonderful songs to cherish the old times.
(yaatose, saatose) |
|--|---|

Nobeoka nanaman goku jyoka machi

Mukashi o shinobu oshiro yama
Kane no ne kiki ni kinarake
(hora yo-itose)

Nobeoka is a castle town which had 70,000 Koku
(rice crop yields.)
There is a Castle Hill to remind us history.
Please come here to listen to the sound of this bell.
(hora yo-itose)

2. Sora no aosa yo mizu sumu sato yo
(nya kore se)
Gokose oose no futatsu no kawa wa
Machi o yogirite minato e sosogu
Kitagawa fuzui o soeru

Yana no mure ayu shibuki o ageru

(yaatose, saatose)
Kawa ni wa kawabune, yakatabune
Yana de wa ayu no kawara yaki
Kawa haze ukete shitarigao

(hora yo-itose)

2. What a blue sky and clean water of this hometown!
(nya kore se)
There are two rivers; Gokase and Oose
Two rivers pour into the harbor, across the town
Hoori Onsen (hot spring) at Kitagawa has such a
taste. (it's attractive)

A group of Ayu fish is making splash at the fist trap,
called "Yana"

(yaatose, saatose)

There are boat and houseboat on the river.

At Yana, you can grill Ayu Fish

You might look triumphant to have both Ayu, and
comfortable breeze

(hora yo-itose)

3. Atagoyama kara shihou o mireba
(nya kore se)
Higasha onada nishi ya yamanami yo

Minami tahata no orinasu ayame,

Kita wa muttsu no manmosu koba
Koto nobeoka yutaka ni ikiru

(yaatose, saatose)
Hyuga ni kita tokyo yottemine

Yoki ga youte ma ga nukete
Mikka mo shitara Hyuga boke
(hora yo-itose)

3. Looking at the four direction of Nobeoka from the
Mount Atago
(nya kore se)
You will see Oonada known as very rough ocean in
the east and mountains in the west.
In the south, you will see terraced ridgelines of the
rice and vegetable fields.
In the north, you will see six mammoth factories.
Industrial capital city, Nobeoka is living with its rich
history and nature.
(yaatose, saatose)
Whenever you come to Hyuga (Miyazaki Prefecture),
please stop by at Nobeoka.
With sunny and cheerful climate,
You will be gaga about Nobeoka in three days.
(hora yo-itose)