

## **lizuka Ondo**

飯塚市 音頭

Written July 7, 2025

A small history/geography lesson – many of the places below will be mentioned in the lyrics.

**lizuka** (飯塚市, lizuka-shi) is a city in Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan. As of 29 February 2024, the city had an estimated population of 124,757 in 63,833 households. The total area of the city is 213.96 km<sup>2</sup> (82.61 sq mi).

lizuka is the central city of the Chikuho region located in the center of Fukuoka Prefecture, east of Fukuoka City and southwest of the center of Kitakyushu City. The Onga River, a first-class river, flows through the central part of the city, and the area forms an urban area. From the northwestern part of the city to the western and southwestern parts of the city, there are mountains ranging in height from 400 to 900 meters, and to the east, a small mountain range. Therefore, the central and northern parts of the city are a basin surrounded by mountains. Yagiya Pass and Shokegoe on the western edge of the city, and Hiyomizu Pass on the southern edge of the city were difficult areas for transportation until roads were developed.

In the area of lizuka, rice has been cultivated in the fertile alluvial plains of the Onga River system since the Yayoi Period. After the Meiji restoration, the town of lizuka was established. lizuka was raised to city status on January 20, 1932. On March 26, 2006, lizuka absorbed the towns of Chikuho, Honami, Kaita and Shōnai (all from Kaho District) to create the new and expanded city of lizuka.

And how did the Oregon Buddhist Temple get an ondo from a small town on Kyushuu? In 2023, I (Chris Sensei) received an email from a 16 year old English language student - Kotoko Furusawa. She heard that I taught bon odori and she wanted to teach me her favorite bon odori. I was able to meet her a couple of days later at the Japanese Garden where we were doing the bon odori festival. A couple of days after that Kotoko and I met at the Oregon Buddhist Temple and she taught me her favorite dance lizuka Ondo. We filmed it for later so I could study and learn it. She had to return to Japan a couple of days after we danced.

lizuka Ondo is on a 45 so assume it must have been recorded around the 70's. It has some different movements than we are used to but it is a fun dance and we enjoy it. We first did it at the 2024 Obon.

It was a special and amazing connection between people in Portland Oregon, and lizuka Japan. And a great memory. This is a link to the music, lyrics, jpg of the record and cover.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gNm595Rp5wo>

**The videos below are from our leaders practice. Soon I will get a detailed teaching video done and a video from Obon.**

**Teaching Video:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8vNBhx23BWl>

**Dancing Video:**

<https://youtu.be/fW9Nbenk-Tg> ---- 2024 Obon

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYA\\_csPdgow](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eYA_csPdgow) ---- practice

## Lyrics:

### lizuka Ondo

飯塚市 音頭

#### verse 1.

haa-

ハアー

moete saku no wa Yagiyama tsutsuji yo ha-wa yoisho na

燃えて 咲くのは 八木山 つつじ ヨ ハ ヨイショ ナ

Otome-gokoro no kurenai no iro itsumo lizuka

乙女 ごころの 紅のいろ いつも 飲塚

Itsumo lizuka hanadayori sate

いつも 飲塚 花便り さて

#### chorus

sate dogen mo kogen mo naitobai honni lizuka yoka yoka yoka  
yoka tokoro

サテ どげんも こげんも ないとばい ホンニ 飲塚  
よか よか よか よかところ

The one that blooms in flames is the Yagiyama azalea.

The crimson color of a maiden's heart in lizuka.

Always lizuka flowers are in the news.

No matter what, this is not the case, Honni, lizuka, it's a good, good, good place

#### verse 2.

haa-

ハアー

Haru wa dontaku dai tsuzumi ga hibiku yo ha yoisho na

春は どんたく 太鼓が ひびくヨ ハ ヨイショ ナ

Natsu wa Gion no mizushibuki sorō yamagasa

夏は 祇園の水しぶき そろう 山笠

Sorō yamagasa isamihada

そろう 山笠 勇み肌

In spring, the big festival tsuzumi resonates.

The summer Gion Yamakasa festival has a splash of water.

Yamakasa is gathered, in high spirits.

No matter what, this is not the case, Honni, lizuka, it's a good, good, good place

#### verse 3.

haa-

ハアー

Iki na monda yo Honami to Kama no yo ha yoi sho na

粋な もんだよ 穂波 と 嘉麻の ヨ ハ ヨイショ ナ

Within the stylish gates, Honami and Kama in lizuka.

Naka o torimotsu Nokonoshima wa matsu wa hitotsu no  
中を 取り持つ 中の島 は 末 は 一つの

Nokonoshima, arranges between the two.

Sue wa hitotsu no Ongagawa  
末は 一つの 遠賀川

At the end is one Onga River

**chorus**

sate dogen mo kogen mo naitobai honni lizuka yoka yoka yoka  
yoka tokoro

サテ どげんも こげんも ないとばい ホンニ 飲塚  
よか よか よか よかところ

No matter what, this is not the case, Honni,  
lizuka, it's a good, good, good place

**verse 4.**

haa-

ハアー

Toshi ni ichido no Eishō-kai wa yo ha yoisho na

年に 一度の 永昌会 は ヨ ハ ヨイショ ナ

The annual Eishokai is great! (big shopping  
event)

Kawasuji katagi no misedokoro machi nya  
hitonami

川筋 かたぎ の 見せどころ 町にや人波

A highlight along the river are the crowds of  
people.

machi nya hitonami

町にや 人波, 旗の波

Crowds of towns people waving flags.

**chorus**

sate dogen mo kogen mo naitobai honni lizuka yoka yoka yoka  
yoka tokoro

サテ どげんも こげんも ないとばい ホンニ 飲塚  
よか よか よか よかところ

No matter what, this is not the case, Honni,  
lizuka, it's a good, good, good place

**verse 5.**

haa-

ハアー

Ryūōsan kara ichibō yo ha yoisho na

龍王山 から 一眸千里 ヨ ハ ヨイショ ナ

From Mount Mount Ryūōsan, you can see a  
thousand miles away.

Yume ga hirogaru sora no shita chigara awasete

夢が 拡がる 空の下 力あわせて

Let's join forces under the sky where dreams  
expand

Chikara awasete machi zukuri

力 あわせて 町 づくり

Working together to develop the city

**chorus**

sate dogen mo kogen mo naitobai honni lizuka yoka yoka yoka  
yoka tokoro

サテ どげんも こげんも ないとばい ホンニ 飲塚  
よか よか よか よかところ

**No matter what, this is not the case, Honni,  
lizuka, it's a good, good, good place**