

Yosakoi Naruko Odori

よさこい 鳴子 踊り

Yosakoi Naruko Odori is a song from the "shin minyo" (新民謡 - modern folk song) genre. It was written by Takemasa Eisaku and based on Yosakoi Bushi which is a poem from Kochi. Eisaku gave the copyright to the public which then allows people to change the dances and lyrics anyway they wish. All he requested is that they use the words, Yosakoi Naruko Odori.

It has become a very popular and active type of street dancing -- large groups, bright costumes, a lot of creativity, and very active choreography. It is generally referred to as just yosakoi (a dance style).

Kochi City is a city located in the central part of Kochi Prefecture and largest city of Kochi Prefecture which used to be the former Tosa-gun. It is also the central city of Shikoku on the Pacific Ocean side.

The story in Yosakoi Bushi is about a monk from a temple who bought a kanzashi (hair decoration for a woman to tie her hair). The two involved were a Buddhist monk named Junshin and a beautiful daughter named Junnobu at Chikurin-ji Temple. This occurred at the end of the Edo period (Ansei) at Harimaya Bridge in Kochi. They fell in love which was forbidden, eloped, were captured, and separated for the rest of their lives. There are references in Yosakoi Naruko Odori to the places and story in Yosakoi Bushi. For example, Mimase and Urato are place names around Katsurahama.

In Yosakoi Naruko Odori there is Yocchoreyo which means "Open the road, stay out of the way" in the Tosa dialect. Also, "Jinma" じんま [note hiragana reads jinba] and "Banba" mean "grandfather" and "grandmother" respectively.

Video Links:

OBT Teach - Yosakoi Naruko Odori - 2011 Teachers Practice https://youtu.be/8ZA_dbr1b2Y

OBT Bon Odori - 2004 World Beat - Yosakoi Naruko Odori <https://youtu.be/BmJfi-JxCNY>

Lyrics:

Translation by Chris Dart – this is meant to give you an idea of what the song is about – not English lyrics.

Yosakoi Naruko Odori

よさこい 鳴子 踊り

chorus 1

(ヨッチョレヨ ヨッチョレヨ
ヨッチョレ ヨッチョレ ヨッチョレヨ
ヨッチョレ ヨッチョレ ヨッチョレヨ)

kouchi no jouka e kite miiya
高知 の 城下 へ 来て みいや

jinba mo banba mo you odoru
じんば も ばんば も よう 踊る

naruko ryote ni you odoru, you odoru

Yosakoi Naruko Odori

Yocchore yo yocchore yo
yocchore yocchore yocchore yo
yocchore yocchore yocchore yo

Come to the town by Kochi castle

Grandpa and grandma are dancing well

鳴子 両手 に よう 踊る、よう 踊る)

Dancing well with naruko in both hands

Tosa no Kouchi no

土佐 の 高知 の (ヨイヤサノ サノサノ)

In Kouchi of Tosa

Harimayabashi de

擋磨屋橋 で (ヨイヤサノ サノサノ)

At Harimaya Bridge

bousan kanzashi kau wo mita

坊さん かんざし 買う を 見た

I saw a priest buying kanzashi

yosakoi, yosakoi

Yosakoi, yosakoi

(ホイ ヨサコイ ヨサコイ ホイ ホイ)

chorus 2

(ヨッチョレヨ ヨッチョレヨ

ヨッチョレ ヨッチョレ ヨッチョレヨ

ヨッチョレ ヨッチョレ ヨッチョレヨ

Yocchore yo yocchore yo

yocchore yocchore yocchore yo

yocchore yocchore yocchore yo

kouchi no jouka e kite miiya

高知 の 城下 へ 来て みいや

Come to the town by Kochi castle

jinba mo banba mo you odoru

じんば も ばんば も よう 踊る

Grandpa and grandma are dancing well

naruko ryote ni you odoru, you odoru

鳴子 両手 に よう 踊る、よう 踊る)

Dancing well with naruko in both hands

Mimase misemasho O tatase yoiya sano sano sano

見ませ 見せましょ お立たせ(よいやさの さの さの sano)

Mimase - place name

Let's show Otatase (yoiya sano sano)

Urato o akete yoiya sano sano sano

浦戸 を あけて (よいやさの さの さの)

Urato - place name

Open the Urato (yoiya sano sano sano)

tsuki no meisho wa Katsurahama

月 の 名所 は 桂浜

Katsurahama (Sole)

The famous place of the moon is

Yosakoi Yosakoi (hoi hoi)

Yosakoi Yosakoi (hoi hoi)

chorus 1

(ヨッチョレヨ ヨッチョレヨ

ヨッチョレ ヨッチョレ ヨッチョレヨ

ヨッチョレ ヨッチョレ ヨッチョレヨ

Yocchore yo yocchore yo

yocchore yocchore yocchore yo

yocchore yocchore yocchore yo

kouchi no jouka e kite miiya

高知 の 城下 へ 来て みいや

Come to the town by Kochi castle

jinba mo banba mo you odoru

じんば も ばんば も よう 踊る

Grandpa and grandma are dancing well

naruko ryote ni you odoru, you odoru

鳴子 両手 に よう 踊る、よう 踊る)

Dancing well with naruko in both hands

yuutara ikancha Oranku (rank) no ike nya
言うたら いかんち や おらんくの 池にや

if you say prank
If you say it, it's crazy, oranku's pond

Shio fuku sakana ga oyogi yoru
潮 吹く 魚 が 泳ぎよる

The tide blows, the fish swims by

Yosakoi Yosakoi (hoi hoi)

Yosakoi Yosakoi (hoi hoi)

chorus 1

(ヨッチョレヨ ヨッチョレヨ
ヨッチョレ ヨッチョレ ヨッチョレヨ
ヨッチョレ ヨッチョレ ヨッチョレヨ

Yocchore yo yocchore yo
yocchore yocchore yocchore yo
yocchore yocchore yocchore yo

kouchi no jouka e kite miiya
高知 の 城下 へ 来て みいや

Come to the town by Kochi castle

jinba mo banba mo you odoru
じんば も ばんば も よう 踊る

Grandpa and grandma are dancing well

naruko ryote ni you odoru, you odoru
鳴子 両手 に よう 踊る、よう 踊る)

Dancing well with naruko in both hands

Tosa wa yoi kuni minami o ukete
土佐 はよい 国 南 を うけて

Tosa has received good country in the
south

satsuma oroshi ga soyosoyoto
さつま おろし が そよそよと

Grated satsuma softly

ヨッチョレヨ ヨッチョレヨ
ヨッチョレ ヨッチョレ ヨッチョレヨ