

Riverside Ondo

First danced at Oregon Buddhist Temple in 2007. Then 2015, 2017, and brought back in 2021. Taught by Sahomi Tachibana who was our bon odori sensei for 25 years.

Teaching Video:

OBT Teach - Riverside Ondo <https://youtu.be/MFoknOox8L8>

Dancing Video:

OBT Bon Odori - 2021 Virtual Obon - Riverside Ondo <https://youtu.be/0dqq6rpjqRk>

Lyrics and information:

The information below is from the book – Joy, Remembrance, Death – Obon Music for North America by Wynn Kiyama, Rev. Masao Kodani, and Nobuko Miyamoto; Southern District Dharma School Teachers League, Los Angeles, CA.; 2016

Riverside Ondo (1969)

**Mariko Ike, Hideshi Yoshida (m), Rev. Hozen Seki, Mie Asao (l),
Kiitsu Sakakibara, Sahomi Tachibana (c)**

Reverend Hozen Seki was born in Kagoshima and moved to the United States in 1930. He established the Arizona Buddhist Church in 1933, the New York Buddhist Church in 1938, and the American Buddhist Academy (American Buddhist Study Center) in 1948. Seki was inspired to write a poem while gazing at the Hudson River from the church rooftop, and Mie Asao, a Japanese artist who occasionally lived in New York, assisted in adapting the poem into song lyrics. The Japanese actress Mariko Ike, described by *Life* magazine as a “dreamy-voiced movie songstress,” wrote the melody and sang on the recording. Folk dance scholar Kiitsu Sakakibara created the original choreography and the New York-based buyo performer Sahomi Tachibana (Haruno Abey) re-choreographed the dance, adding allusions to the Hudson River and the tall skyscrapers of Manhattan.

**1. Yume no (choito ne) Academy (sate ne) kokoro no izumi
Nazeka tanoshii, nazeka tanoshii, Riverside**

*An academy of dreams, the spirit of spring,
Something is joyful, something is joyful, Riverside.*

**2. Hudson (choito ne) kawa niwa (sate ne) itsu itsu mademo
Nokosu omokage, nokosu omokage, Riverside**

*On the Hudson river, always
Leaving your image, leaving your image, Riverside.*

**3. Fifth (choito ne) Avenue wa (sate ne) new mode
Ichido aruko, ichido aruko, Riverside**

*Fifth Avenue is the new mode
Let's walk, let's walk along Riverside.*

**4. Tokyo (choito ne) Tower ni (sate ne)
yuuhi ga ochirya**

Odori odorou, odori odorou, Riverside

*The sun is setting behind Tokyo Tower
Let's dance, let's dance, Riverside.*

**5. Niji no (choito ne) kakehashi (sate ne)
aka, midori, kiiri**

**Higashi to nishi no, higashi to nishi no,
Riverside**

*A rainbow bridge—red, green, and
yellow,
From east to west, from east to west,
Riverside.*

**6. Nanimo (choito ne) iwazu ni (sate ne),
katari mo sezuni**

Hitotsu omino, hitotsu omino, Riverside

*Without saying anything, without talking,
Of one mind, of one mind, Riverside.*

**7. New York (choito ne) Tokyo (sate ne) tooku te chikai
Hanami ni oide, hanami ni oide, Riverside**

*New York and Tokyo, so far but so close, Come see the sakura, come see the sakura,
Riverside.*

From: Joy, Remembrance, Death

Obon Music for North America by Wynn Kiyama Project Director

Essayists Rev.Masao Kodani, Wynn Kiyama, Nobuko Miyamoto

