

# Bambutsu No Tsunagari

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

A special thanks to Nobuko who taught us the dance at a special workshop held at Oregon Buddhist Temple in May 2018.

## **Bam Butsu no Tsunagari (2013)**

### **“All Things Connected”**

**Nobuko Miyamoto (m/l/c), Quetzal Flores (m), Rev. Masao Kodani,  
César Castro (l), Martha Gonzalez (l/c), Elaine Fukumoto (c)**

This bon odori song emerged from friendships, activist affinities, and past musical collaborations. Noting the similarities between the Japanese obon festival and the Mexican observance honoring the dead, El Día de los Muertos, Miyamoto and Quetzal Flores developed a musical form called “FandangObon.” Rather than blending musical traditions, they created a shared space for Japanese obon music and son jarocho, a folk music style from Veracruz. The circle dance includes familiar bon odori steps with flowing arm movements, while a solo dancer punctuates rhythms on the tarima (wooden platform). Produced by Flores, the recording features the sounds of the yokobue, shamisen, taiko, and jarana along with singers Flores, Miyamoto, Martha Gonzalez, and “Atomic Nancy” Sekizawa trading verses in English and Spanish with a Japanese refrain.

### **Video:**

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uY2AtdhG26o&list=PLkeYL6A2MrBSVoMr2SShTA4C\\_sbfqvs\\_G&index=18](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uY2AtdhG26o&list=PLkeYL6A2MrBSVoMr2SShTA4C_sbfqvs_G&index=18)

### **Lyrics:**

Also 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

Bambutsu No Tsunagari

In the circle we dance  
No beginning, no ending  
In the circle we dance  
I am you, you are the other me  
Bam butsu no tsunagari...

Carácter ceremonial  
El fandango rompe el orden  
Celebración especial  
En donde las almas borden  
Con sus ritmos, melodías  
Que al día de hoy celebramos  
Ancestral sabiduría  
Con la cual nos abrazamos

*Ceremonial character  
Fandango breaks with order  
A special celebration  
Where souls intertwine  
With its rhythms and melodies  
From which we celebrate today  
Ancestral knowledge  
Which we used to embrace*

Bam butsu no tsunagari...

In the circle we dance  
Like the moon and the sun  
In the circle we dance  
Let our hearts be the drum  
Bam butsu no tsunagari...

Empecemos a remediar  
Con los ancestros del son...  
Que es tiempo de celebrar  
La vida en FandangObon...

*Let's put things right  
With our musical ancestors  
It's time to celebrate  
Life with FandangObon*

In the circle we dance  
To remember the dead  
In the circle we dance  
Oneness is moving

Bam butsu no tsunagari...

Somos la fe y esperanza  
Somos Nuevo amanecer  
Y la energia que alcanza  
Dar  vida a un nuevo ser

*We are faith, we are hope  
We are the dawning  
And the energy that we reach  
Will give life to new beings*

