

Ocha Tsumi Ondo

Updated 2020

This music and dance are one of Sahomi's favorites so it became part of the 2020 virtual obon. It is from a 45 record that I think was done about 1971. In 1972 it was put on a music tape – assume that was a cassette. The record was produced by Techiku Records and was recorded by Haruo Minami. Sahomi heard the song and liked it so she created the choreography for it.

The lyrics are about tea picking on Shizuoka (translation below) and about the famous teas around Japan. The lyrics request that we sing the song brightly and cheerfully. The movements involve going out to the tea field, picking the tea, celebrating the harvest, and the environment this occurs in – fields, mountains, and valleys (the movements when we turn to the outside and come out of the center of the circle).

Videos:

Ocha Tsumi Ondo at Oregon Buddhist Temple

Teaching video:

<https://youtu.be/88PETvSk1hk>

Dancing Video: This is from a vhs tape of a practice in 1999.

<https://youtu.be/Trk9N95PaM4>

Dancing Video from the 2020 Virtual Obon Bonodori:

<https://youtu.be/-gyWfw-o2bA>

Dancing Video from the 2004 World Beat

A group from Oregon Buddhist Temple did some dances:

<https://youtu.be/ml4-P9W11Ak>

Lyrics:

From the insert in the 45 record. Translation by Chris Dart

お茶 つみ 音頭

いそいそと (ア ヨイシヨ)

iso iso to (ah yoisho)

With cheer (ah yoisho)

お茶をつむ 手が愛しくて (ホーイ)

ocha o tsumu te ga itoshikute (ho-i)

tea picking hands are lovely (hoi)

声をかけたや あの娘の姿

Koe o kaketa ya ano musume no sugata

I called out, that girl's form (picking form)

空は 青空 みどりの光り (アー ソレソレ)

sora wa aozora midori no hikari

the sky - blue sky that lights up the green (ah sore sore)

紅いたすきが 瞳に 沁む 頃は

The crimson tasuki [cord] penetrates the eye

akai tasuki ga me ni hitsu koro wa

八十八夜 がもうすぐ 近い

hachi jyu hachi ya ga mousugu chikai

Eighty-eight nights are near soon

満月が (ア ヨイシヨ)

mangetsu ga

A full moon (ah yoisho)

丸く 照らした お茶の 畠 (ホーイ)

maruku tera shita ocha no hatake

Round leaves in the tea field are shining (hoi)

忍ぶ 川霧 静かに ゆれて

shinobu kawagiri shizuka ni yurete

The hidden river mist quietly sways

たしか 昼間のあの娘 じゃないか
(アー ソレソレ)

Tashika hiruma no ano musume jya nai ka

Isn't she that girl we saw during the day? (ah sore sore)

君と二人で 夢 みるような

kimi to futari de yume miru yo na

Together with you, It's like a dream.

声も 明るい お茶 つみ おんど

koe mo akarui ocha tsumi ondo

Sing Ochatumi Ondo with a bright voice

山は富士 (ア ヨイシヨ)

yama wa Fuji

The mountain is Fuji (ah yoisho)

お茶は 静岡 宇治 のお茶 (ホーイ)

ocha wa Shizuoka Uji's no ocha

The tea is Shizuoka's Uji tea (hoi)

九州 八女茶 に 知覧の お茶よ

Kyushu Yamecha ni Chiran no ocha yo

In Kyushu Yamecha tea, Chiran's tea

忘れしゃんすな 狭山のおちゃも (アー ソレソレ)

Wasure shansu na Sayama no ocha mo

Don't forget Sayama's tea (ah sore sore)

味は 様々 自慢で ござる

aji wa sama zama jiman de gozaru

The taste is various and boastful.

一葉 一葉 に 真心 こめて

ichi ha ichi ha ni magokoro komete

In one leaf, one leaf, sincerity and true heart