

AIUEO Ondo

This is an alphabet song – a play on words and alphabet for fun. They talk about the sights, sounds, and experiences of Obon. And it also includes the entire a, ka, sa, ta, na ... the letters in the alphabet chart.

By stanza:

1. has a, i, u, e, o (odori), and ka, ki, ku, ke, ko (kotoshi).
2. has sa, shi, su, se, so (sora), and ta, chi, tsu, te, to (tobi-iri)--words use the last letter.
3. has na, ni, nu, ne, no, and ha, hi, hu, he, ho.
4. has ma, mi, mu, me, mo, and ya, i, yu, e, yo, (i, and e, old Japanese)
5. has ra, ri, ru, re, ro, and wa, i, u, e, o (i, u, e, old Japanese)

Video: From 2002 in the Portland Japanese Garden

OBT Bon Odori - 2002 Japanese Garden – AIUEO - link <https://youtu.be/5cyCOzvX-ek>

Lyrics

The lyrics are from the book Book Gathering of Joy – A History of Bon Odori in Mainland America by Reverend Masao Kodani and the Senshin Buddhist Temple in Los Angeles, CA .

A-I-U-E-Ondo

Alphabet Ondo

- 1. Hana ga anata ka, anata ga hana ka**
Minna egao de konban wa
A-i-u-e- odori no wa ga hiraku
Ka-ki-ku-ke kotoshi no bon odori *sore*

Pappa papa ryote de chon

Pappa pa appa cha cha muki atte chon chon

Is the flower you, or are you the flower?
Everyone says good evening with a smile
The circle of the A-i-u-e- odori widens
Pappa papa, with both hands – chon
Pappa pa appa cha cha, facing each other chon chon

- 2. Tamanya ii desho, soroi no yukata**
Wakai futari wa yume goko chi
Sa-shi-su-se- sora kara otsukisan
Ta-chi-tsu-te- tobi-iri nakama iri

Pappa papa, ryo te de chon

Pappa pa appa cha cha muki atte chon chon

Isn't it nice to occasionally have a grouping of Yukata
With two youngsters entranced with each other
Sa-shi-su-se- from the sky the moon
Ta-chi-tsu-te- jumps into our midst
Pappa papa, with both hands – chon
Pappa pa appa cha cha, facing each other – chon chon

- 3. Sasu te hiku te ni tsurarete yureru**
Akai chochin hito no nami
Na-ni-nu-ne- nombiri ojichan
Ha-hi-hu-he- hogaraka obaachan

Pappa papa, ryo te de chon

Pappa pa appa cha cha muki atte chon chon

An extended hand taking a hesitant hand
The red paper lanterns, the waves of people
Na-ni-nu-ne- the carefree grandpa
Ha- hi-hu-he- the cheerful grandma
Pappa papa, with both hands – chon
Pappa pa appa cha cha, facing each other – chon chon

- 4. Yagura sankaku, hiroba wa shikaku**
Agaru hanabi wa nijumaru
Ma-mi-mu-me- mo ichido odorimasho
Ya-i-yu-e- yoi ko mo gambatte

Pappa papa, ryo te de chon

Pappa pa appa cha cha muki atte chon chon

A triangular Yagura in a square plaza
The fireworks rise in double rings
Ma-mi-mu-me- lets dance once more
Ya-i-yu-e- Keep it up good people
Pappa papa, with both hands – chon
Pappa pa appa cha cha, facing each other– chon chon

- 5. Nihon kokuju, heiwa no taiko**
Kyo mo narimasu hibikimasu
Ra-ri-ru-re- roman no aru hito ni
Wa-i-u-e- ookina asa ga kuru

Pappa papa, ryo te de chon

Pappa pa appa cha cha muki atte chon chon

Throughout Japan, the taiko of peace
Sounds and reverberates today
Ra-ri-ru-re- to the person with romance in his heart
Wa-i-u-e- an expansive morning dawns
Pappa papa, with both hands – chon
Pappa pa appa cha cha, facing each other– chon chon