

Steps to Kita Kyushu Tanko Bushi (Coal Miner's Dance)

Tanko Bushi is a *minyo* (Japanese folk) song that was originally sung by coal miners to ease the toil and monotony of their daily lives. The song was later adapted into a communal dance that is performed at *Obon* (Summer Buddhist festivals), not only in Japan, but also throughout the United States. Minyo songs include vocals, *shamisen* (three stringed plucked instrument), *taiko* (drums), and *kane* (brass bell).

3 shoulder	④ shoulder	5 go back	6 go back
Step your right foot forward and throw the coal over your shoulder.	Repeat the same action with your left foot and hand.	Next, step back with your left foot first. Wipe the sweat from your brow with your right hand.	Step back with your right foot. Hold up your left hand to wipe your other brow.
tsuki ga-	deta-	a yoi	



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Calendar of Obon Summer Festivals in Southern California (will be updated in the Spring): http://www.japanese-city.com/calendar/events/index.php?com=searchresult&t=30

Minyo vocal and shamisen lessons with Matsutoyo Sato: http://www.matsutoyo-kai.org/

Taiko (Japanese drum) lessons with Rev. Tom Kurai: http://www.taikocenter.com/TaikoCenterofLosAngeles/Welcome.html

CD with Tanko Bushi track available for \$10 at: http://www.minyostation.com/1st_CD__Cultural_Twist_.html