

The 33rd Meeting to Think About the Folk Entertainment and Rural Life

Ayako-mai Folk Performance,
a folk entertainment of Kashiwazaki City, Niigata Prefecture

- 12:00 a.m. Doors open and reception begins
 1:00 p.m. Opening remarks
 1:10 p.m. **【Part 1】** Exploring the background of folk culture - Kashiwazaki City, Niigata Prefecture and Ayako-mai Folk Performance -
 Break (approx. 20 min.)
 2:00 p.m. **【Part 2】** Special performance of folk entertainment <Ayako-mai Folk Performance >
 Programs **【Simono Kouta Dance】** Oharagi Dance
【Takanda Kouta Dance】 Hitachi Dance
【Takanda Kouta Dance】Kokiriko Dance
【Simono Noh Farce (Kyogen)】 Shrimp Scooping
【Simono Kouta Dance】 Hitachi Dance
 At around 3:30 p.m. Closing

◆◆◆ **Explanation of Ayako-mai Folk performance** ◆◆◆

Ayako-mai folk performance has two proprietor, Takanda district and Simono district.



Oharagi Dance

【Simono Kouta Dance】 Oharagi Dance

Women who lived in Ohara, Kyoto was once called "Oharame". Oharagi Dance is an expression of Oharame peddling firewood to meet her lover in the capital. The feature of this Oharagi Dance is that the scene called "Sashi," where the dancers make their appearance, begins with a vocal solo without accompaniment, which is different from other dances. It is a dance of love in which 19 different beautiful hand movements with fans are performed.



Hitachi Dance

【Takanda Kouta Dance】 Hitachi Dance

At Kashima Shrine in Hitachi Province (present-day Ibaraki Prefecture), fortune-telling was performed during the New Year's holiday, in which young men and women would write the name of the person they loved on a strip and offer it before the altar, then the Shinto senior priest would tie the strip and perform matchmaking. This paper strip was called the "Enmusubi Hitachi-obi". It is said that the singing and dancing that took place during the drinking bout became the basis for Hitachi Dance. The tradition of Hitachi Dance has been preserved in both Simono and Takanda, and each of them performs different songs and dances.



Kokiriko Dance

【Takanda Kouta Dance】Kokiriko Dance

This is the story of when Sugawara no Michizane was exiled to Dazaifu in Kyushu. On the eve of his departure from the capital, a girl named Aya of Shichijo Bomon in the capital was told in a dream to see him off with all her heart, and she did a farewell dance at the foot of Sanjo Ohashi Bridge holding a lease rod (clavé-like folk instrument) to see him off, which is said to be the origin of this dance. The costume differs from other dances in that the dancers tie up the hem of their hakama trousers, wear a celestial crown, and hold Kokiriko instead of a fan.



Shrimp scooping

【Simono Noh Farce (Kyogen)】 Shrimp Scooping

The lord orders the young servant to buy some prawns for a feast for tomorrow's guests. When the young servant asks the lord for money, the lord tells him that he has no money and that the young servant should prepare it for himself. The young servant gets angry and plans to cheat the lord. The kyogen chanting and short kyogen dance performed during the performance add to the heartwarming flavor of the Noh farce style. Shrimp scooping is still performed in both territories, but the lines are different for each.