

Presented by Mary Ann Herman

WARAKU ODORI

Gentle Happiness Dance

Japan

- SOURCE:** This dance comes from the area of beautiful Nikko where each year at festival time, literally tens of thousands of people gather to dance this and other traditional dances.
- Waraku Odori is danced as its name implies with gentle happiness. On one occasion, shortly after the turn of the century, the then emperor of Japan came to view this dance at the local festival. It contains a number of fundamental movements of Japanese dances.
- This dance was first introduced in the United States at the Maine Folk Dance Camp by Hiriyuko Ikema-san and Earle R. Buckley of Tokyo, Japan.
- RECORD:** FOLK DANCER MH 2010.
- FORMATION:** The dancers face clockwise in a single file. Each moves as a solo dancer.

Music	Pattern
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1-2	Step forward Left foot. Tap Right toe behind Left heel at the same time shade eyes with Left hand. Right hand pushes back imaginary sleeve of yukata (summer kimono).
3-4	Step forward Right foot, tap Left toe behind Right heel and shade eyes with Right hand, as Left hand pushes back sleeve of imaginary yukata.
5-6	Left foot points back, facing towards wall with back to center of circle. Hands do a complete circle in front of body. Right hand elevates diagonally to upper Right. Left hand lowers diagonally to lower left. Step on Left foot.
7-8	Right foot points back, as dancers turn slightly to face inside of the circle, Left hand is elevated now and Right hand is lower. Step on Right foot.
9	Step forward with slight bend and stamp on Right foot bringing both hands from crossed position in front to low at the sides.
10	Step forward Left foot, straighten and bring both hands to front.
11-12	Bring both feet together, clap both hands, pause. Repeat from beginning as often as desired, for length of record.