

Zhan Zai Gao Gang Shang
(Jan Dzai Gau Gang Shang)
(Standing on the Mountain Ridge)
(Taiwan)

This dance was choreographed based on the dance steps of Taiwanese aboriginals, who live in mountainous regions. Thus, this is one of Taiwanese “mountain dances.” The lyrics were written by Min YAO. The music is composed by SITU Ming and arranged by Martin TANG. For the selected music, the singer, CHANG Hui-mei, is a Taiwanese aboriginal pop singer, very famous among Mandarin-speaking communities.

The title is pronounced as, in Hanyu-pinyin system, Zhan(4) Zai(4) Gao(1) Gang(1) Shang(4). “Zhan” means “stand;” “Zai” means “at;” “Gao” means “high;” “Gang” means “hill;” and “Shang” means “on top of . . .” The whole title has been translated in different ways, such as Standing on Top of the High Hill, Standing on Top of the Hill, Up on the Hill, Standing on the Mountain Ridge, and Standing on the Mountain.

YANG Chang Shong introduced it, under the name of “Standing on the Mountain Ridge,” to Mainwoods Dance Camp in 1979. Ching-Shan CHANG introduced this dance, under the name of “Jan Dzai Gau Gang Shang,” to the Stockton Folk Dance Camp in 1980. The music structure used for the dance described in this article is a little different from that used by C.-S. Chang in 1980. The step sequences are also different.

Choreographer: LIU Hsiao Po (1970)

Steps & Styling: Stamp: Take a heavy step on spot without wt (ct 1).
Stomp: Take a heavy step on spot with wt (ct 1).
For the stage effects, it is optional to wear wrist-bells and even ankle-bells in order to make ringing sounds during the dance.

Formation: Circle of individual dancers, without joining hands, facing LOD at the beginning.

Meas 4/4 Meter

Pattern

1-20 INTRODUCTION No action, with optional R Stamp in place and clapping both hands at waist height at odd-number cts.

FIGURE I.1

- 1 Facing LOD, bend left knee, bring R toe fwd with straight R leg, turn R shldr twd LOD, and bend upper body so that 2 hands are extended twd R ft with R hand lower than L hand, which is bent at the elbow (ct 1); lower R heel, straighten up body, and transfer wt to R (ct 2); step out L toe with both legs kept straight, turn L shldr twd LOD, raise L hand high above and pointing slightly twd LOD while R hand is close to the L shldr with elbow bent (ct 3); lower L heel and transfer wt to L ft (ct 4). Turn wrists and shake individual hands (to make ringing sounds when wearing bells) at every even-number ct.

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- 2- 4 Repeat meas 1 for 3 more times (12 cts).
- 5 Facing ctr, raise arms above head, stomp R with a slight hip movement twd R, and turn wrists and shake individual hands to ring bells, if any (ct 1); close L to R (ct 2); repeat cts 1-2 (cts 3-4).
- 6 Repeat meas 5 (4 cts).

FIGURE I.2

- 1 Join hands at V-pos, turn facing RLOD, bend upper body fwd, take 3 steps (R,L,R) bkwd to LOD (cts 1-3); straighten up body, hop R and make ½ turn CW at the same time (ct 4).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and direction. (4 cts).
- 3- 4 Repeat meas 1-2 (8 cts) but turn CCW twd ctr at the last ct, with hands released at end.
- 5- 6 Repeat 5-6 in Fig. I.1 (8 cts).

FIGURE I.3

- 1 Facing ctr, bend knees slightly and bend upper body slightly. Step R (ct 1); touch L beside R and clap hands at the R lower side of body (ct 2); step L (ct 3); touch R beside L and clap hands at the L lower side of body (ct 4).
- 2- 4 Repeat 1-2 for 3 more times (12 cts).
- 5- 6 Repeat 5-6 in Fig. I.1 (8 cts).

FIGURE I.4

- 1 Turn facing LOD, join hands, take 3 steps (R,L,R) fwd (cts 1-3); Stamp with upper body bent slightly fwd (ct 4).
- 2 Repeat meas 1 with opp ftwk and direction (4 cts)
- 3- 4 Repeat meas 1-2 (8 cts). Release hands at end.
- 5- 6 Repeat 5-6 in Fig. I.1 (8 cts).

FIGURE II

- 1 Facing ctr, with feet wide-open, move hands down (ct 1); cross hands in front of the body (ct 2); move hands upward and outward to the V-shape, with the upper body bending slightly bkwd (cts 3-4). Meanwhile, shake hands four times (to make ringing sounds when wearing bells) and also raise and lower heels 4 times.
- 2 Bend upper body over and bend knees slightly. Move hands from two sides of the body downward and inward to cross over in front of legs. At the same time, shake hands 4 times and also raise and lower heels 4 times (4 cts).
- 3- 4 Repeat meas 1-2 (8 cts).
- 5 Rest hands on neighbors' shldr. With R knee bending, L heel slightly raised, eyes looking twd RLOD, and body leaning twd LOD, bend and raise R knee slightly twice (4 cts).
- 6 Repeat meas 5 with opp ftwk and posture (4 cts).
- 7- 8 Repeat meas 5-6 (8 cts).
- 9-16 Repeat meas 1-8 (32 cts).

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INTERLUDE

- 1 Facing ctr with knees bent slightly and upper body bending a little fwd, move hands from lower L twd lower R and brush knees on the way (ct 1); move hands from lower R twd lower L, brushing knees on the way (ct 2); repeat ct 1 (ct 3); shake hands twd right hand side and shout “Hey” (ct 4).
- 2 Start hands from lower R and repeat meas 1 at opp direction (4 cts).
- 3- 4 Repeat meas 1-2 (4 cts).

ENDING

- 1- 6 Same as meas 1-6 in Fig.I.1 (24 cts).
- 7- 8 Same as meas 1-2 in Fig. I.2 (8 cts). Keep hands joined.
- 9-10 Beg R, take 7 steps twd ctr, raise hands gradually, and hold for the last ct (8 cts).
- 11-12 Beg L, take 7 steps bkwd and lower hands (cts 1-7); touch R beside L (ct 8).
- 13-14 Repeat meas 9-10 (8 cts).
- 15-17 Pose with weight on R ft, slightly bent knee and left straight leg behind, repeatedly twist wrists and shake individual hands to make bell sounds (12 cts).

Sequence:

Introduction (20 meas)

Fig I, Fig II, Interlude

Fig I, Fig II, Interlude

Ending

(There are tunes with different band/singer and the dance sequence could be a little different. The notes here describe the steps following the music sung by the popular singer Hui-mei Chang)

Notes by Wen Chiang; July 22, 2011
Presented by Sue Chen & Wen Chiang

Lyrics

(Chinese lyrics, “pinyin” transliteration, and English translation)

(The English translation was written by Paul Culton.)

連綿的青山百里長呀， Lian Mian De Qing Shan Bai Li Chang Ya, 巍巍聳起向屏障呀喂； Wei Wei Song Qi Xiang Ping Zhang Ya Wei; 青青的山嶺穿雲霄呀， Qing Qing De Shan Ling Chuan Yun Xiao Ya, 白雲片片蒼蒼呀喂。 Bai Yun Pian Pian Tian Cang Cang Ya Wei.	The endless green mountain stretches hundreds of miles, Extending skyward like a huge backdrop; Pushing its verdant peak through the clouds, Puffs of white clouds floating in the blue of the sky.
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Zhan Zai Gao Gang Shang – continued

<p>連綿的青山百里長呀， Lian Mian De Qing Shan Bai Li Chang Ya, 郎在崗上等紅妝呀喂； Lang Zai Gang Shang Deng Hong Zhuang Ya Wei; 青青的山嶺穿雲霄呀， Qing Qing De Shan Ling Chuan Yun Xiao Ya, 站著一個有情郎呀喂。 Zhan Zhe Yi Ge You Qing Lang Ya Wei.</p> <p>我站在高崗上遠處望， Wo Zhan Zai Gao Gang Shang Yuan Chu Wang, 那一片綠波海茫茫； Na Yi Pian Lv Bo Hai Mang Mang; 你站在高崗上向下望， Ni Zhan Zai Gao Gang Shang Xiang Xia Wang, 是誰在對你聲聲唱？ Shi Shui Zai Dui Ni Sheng Sheng Chang?</p> <p><i>(Repeat three previous verses.)</i></p> <p>連綿的青山百里長呀， Lian Mian De Qing Shan Bai Li Chang Ya, 郎情妹意配成雙呀喂； Lang Qing Mei Yi Pei Cheng Shuang Ya Wei; 青青的山嶺穿雲霄呀， Qing Qing De Shan Ling Chuan Yun Xiao Ya, 我倆相愛在高崗，在高崗！ Wo Lia Xiang Ai Zai Gao Gang, Zai Gao Gang!</p>	<p>The endless green mountain reaches hundreds of miles, On that mountainside a youth waits for his beauty; Lush green mountaintop projecting through clouds, There stands a young man bursting with love.</p> <p>Standing atop the peak, I look far and wide, At a vast expanse of ocean with green waves; From the lofty peak you glance downward, Looking for one who sings to you over and over.</p> <p><i>(Repeat three previous verses.)</i></p> <p>The endless green mountain spans hundreds of miles, Young man and young woman, now together; Beautiful green mountain peak thrusting through clouds, You and I fall in love on top of a hill, on top of the hill!</p>
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