

BON ODORI DANCE PROGRAM

Dance Leader: Elaine Marume

Emcee: TBD

#1 **Bon Odori Uta** – Written in 1934, with its simple and elegant movements, it is still considered the most beautiful of our Bon Odori dances and is traditionally the first and last dance at most temple Bon Odori. This dance was choreographed by Rev. Yoshio Iwanaga, founder of the Bon Odori tradition in the mainland U.S.

#2 **Bambutsu No Tsunagari** (using “uchiwa” round fan) – When composer Nobuko Miyamoto saw the similarities between the Mexican Fandango celebration and the Bon Odori, she and musicians Quetzal Flores and Martha Gonzales collaborated to create a piece that melds the Japanese-American and Mexican-American traditions into a song and dance called “Bambutsu No Tsunagari” which means “all things are connected”.

#3 **Shimaya Uta Ashibii** – This dance is new for this year’s Obon and is an Okinawan style dance.

#4 **Tokyo Ondo** – Originally written for the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo, the movements depict the five rings of the Olympic symbol, jumping the hurdles, swimming, and sprinting.

#5 **Ichigo Ichie** – This is the newest dance from the very prolific Japanese-American choreographer Nobuko Miyamoto. The dance reflects the Buddhist concept of impermanence, that every moment is unique to its causes and conditions.

#6 **Shiawase Samba** – A modern Bon Odori dance with a samba beat, the title suggests happiness and joy.

INTERMISSION

#7 **Hanagasa Daiko** – This dance depicts a woman preparing to visit a festival—applying makeup or washing face, combing hair, checking the weather, dressing and tying the obi (sash), putting on a hanagasa (hat decorated with flowers).

#8 **Nikkei Ondo** – This dance expresses gratitude for the Nikkei (Japanese immigrants and their descendants) whose hard work laid the foundation for the Japanese-American communities in the US.

#9 **Yagi Bushi** (using “tenugui” towel) – An old traditional folk song, the dance movements celebrate sake (rice wine) making, measuring and mixing the ingredients

#10 **One Plus One (Ichi Tasu Ichi)** – A modern Bon Odori dance which is simple, energetic, and fun!

#11 **Kyushu Tanko Bushi** – The popular coalminer’s dance from Fukuoka prefecture. We shovel coal, throw it over our shoulder, and push the cart.

#12 **Bon Odori Uta** – We end, as we began, with this solemn but beautiful dance.