

## The *Kanomizu-no-Kakeodori* Dance A 300-year-old Dance.

### 1. History of the Kanomizu-no-Kakeodori Dance Cultural Property Designation

- 1962: Designated as a Gifu Prefecture “Important Intangible Cultural Property”.
- 1974: Selected as an “Important Intangible Cultural Property” for which details should be recorded for posterity.
- 1975: Due to revisions to the Law for the Protection of Cultural Property, it was changed to an “Intangible Folk Cultural Property” for which details should be recorded for posterity.
- 1976: Due to revisions of the Gifu Prefecture Ordinance for the Protection of Cultural Properties, the designation was revised to a Gifu Prefecture “Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property”.
- 2021: Designated as an “Nationally Important Intangible Folk Cultural Property”.
- 2022: Registered as one of the UNESCO “Intangible Cultural Heritage” dances under the “Furyu Odori” designation.

### 2. Overview

*Kanomizu-no-Kakeodori* dance is a traditional dance that originated 300 years ago in the Kanomizu area of Meiho, Gujo City, in Gifu Prefecture. During the festival of *Kanomizu Hakusan Shinto Shrine*, the people of the Kanomizu area use the dance as a way to pray for peace and a bountiful harvest. They also use the dance as an opportunity to deepen community bonds.



The *Kanomizu-no-Kakeodori Preservation Society*, which is made up of residents of Kanomizu, plays a major role in the preparations. Every year in

mid-August, the society assigns members specific roles. Some members are responsible for making necessary items and some members are responsible for practicing the dance. Approximately one week before the festival, society members come together to prepare for the dance. The festival is then held on the second Saturday and Sunday of September.

### 3. Actors

There are about 130 participants in the *Kanomizu-no-Kakeodori* dance. The participants are called '*Yakusha*' or actors. Each '*Yakusha*' (actor) is assigned a specific role which has a set number of participants. Each '*Yakusha*' (actor) has their own costume and items that have been passed down through the generations. Two particularly important roles for the *Yakusha* (actors) are *Oridaiko* and *Kanehiki*, which are called the *Hyoshiuchi*. The *Hyoshiuchi* is the percussion section of the musicians.

The following is a list of the specific roles and the number of people for each role:

- |                                 |           |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| (1) <i>Tsuyuharai</i>           | 2 people  |
| (2) <i>Nengi</i>                | 1 person  |
| (3) <i>Kagitori</i>             | 1 person  |
| (4) <i>Goku</i>                 | 1 person  |
| (5) <i>Dashibanamochi</i>       | 2 people  |
| (6) <i>Kaminoborimochi</i>      | 1 person  |
| (7) <i>Akumabara</i>            | 1 person  |
| (8) <i>Naginatafuri</i>         | 1 person  |
| (9) <i>Ondo</i>                 | 2 people  |
| (10) <i>Ondo-sewayaku</i>       | 1 person  |
| (11) <i>Oridaiko</i>            | 3 people  |
| (12) <i>Oridaiko-sewayaku</i>   | 3 people  |
| (13) <i>Kanehiki</i>            | 1 person  |
| (14) <i>Kanehiki-sewayakau</i>  | 1 person  |
| (15) <i>Fuefuki</i>             | 10 people |
| (16) <i>Fuefuki-sewayaku</i>    | 2 people  |
| (17) <i>Sasarasuri</i>          | 4 people  |
| (18) <i>Sasarasuri-sewayaku</i> | 1 person  |
| (19) <i>Tauchi</i>              | 7 people  |
| (20) <i>Tauchi-sewayaku</i>     | 2 people  |
| (21) <i>Daikokumai</i>          | 2 people  |
| (22) <i>Oyakko</i>              | 7 people  |
| (23) <i>Koyakko</i>             | 9 people  |



*Tsuyuharai*



*Oridaiko*

- (24) *Oyakko-Koyakko-sewayaku* 1 person
- (25) *Jiutagashira* 1 person
- (26) *Jiuta* 15 people
- (27) *Hanagasa* 12 people
- (28) *Hanagasa-sewayaku* 2 people
- (29) *Okamemai* 2 people
- (30) *Ogasamochi* 1 person
- (31) *Odorinoborimochi* 4 people



*Hanagasa*

#### 4. Itinerary

The first day of the **Kanomizu Hakusan Shinto Shrine Festival** is called **Shingaku** and the second day is called **Hongaku**. The **Kanomizu-no-Kakeodori** dance is performed three times on each of these days. The content of the dance is the same on both days. In the morning, four **Hyoshiuchi** or “percussionists” gather at an old family house called a **Nakageta**. The percussionists start playing **taiko** (drums) and **kane** (small gongs). This performance signals the beginning of the festival. Around noon, the other actors gather at the **Nakageta** house and watch the musicians perform inside the house. After the performance, all actors form a procession and walk around the **Kanomizu** area, eventually returning to the garden of the **Nakageta** house. The actors then make a circle around the **Hyoshiuchi** (percussionists), and perform the first dance called the '**Nakageta-mae-no-odori**' dance. Then the **Ondo** and **Jiuta** actors sing with the **Hyoshiuchi** (percussionists). Compared to the dances at the Shinto Shrine, the movements of this dance are gentler.



After the **Nakageta-mae-no-odori** dance, the actors form another procession again and walk towards **Kanomizu Hakusan Shinto Shrine**. When the actors enter the Shinto Shrine, they line up in a circle around the **Hyoshiuchi** (percussionists) in the garden of the Shrine, and dance the '**Oniwa-Odori**' and the '**Haiden-mae-no-Odori**'. In these dances the **Ondo**

and **Jiuta** singers sing with the **Hyoshiuchi** (percussionists). During the two dances at the Shrine, the **Hyoshiuchi** (percussionists) dance while sweeping the ground with large bamboo ornaments strapped to their backs called a **Shinai**. This action is called **Niwahaki**, and it is believed that picking up the flower decorations that have fallen from the **Shinai** will bring good luck. However, only some actors are allowed to pick them up. In the evening, the **Kanomizu-no-Kakeodori** dance ends with a special closing song. On the second day of the festival, as soon as the dance is finished, the actors and spectators form a small circle and perform a final entertaining dance together.

