

# Kuchi-shōga

This is the system of syllables used by the Japanese to teach music to taiko group members. Basics that you need to know for our work here:

<b>Kuchi-shōga</b>	<b>Description</b>
DON	Accented hit with your right hand...quarter note
KON	Accented hit with your left hand...quarter note
DO	Accented hit with your right hand...eighth note
RO	Accented hit with your left hand...eighth note
do	Unaccented hit with your right hand, eighth note
ko	Unaccented hit with your left hand, eighth note
ka	Soft rim hit with your right hand, eighth note
ra	Soft rim hit with your left hand, eighth note
go	Swung note hit with left hand, eighth note
don-go	Swung pair of eighth notes
(su)	Rest...eight note

The piece that we will be learning is a festival piece used by KODO taiko. KODO apprentices play this piece all through the port town of Ogi on Sado Island during a festival. It is scripted out below:

# **OGI MATSURI**

Part A: |: DON KON don-go (su su) | DON KON don-go (su su) |  
DON KON don-go (su) go | DON (su) go DON (su su) :|

Part B: DON KON DON KON | DON KON DON KON |  
don-go (su su) “SO – RE” | don-go (su su) “SO-RE”

Part C: |: don-go (su su) | don-go (su su) :|  
|:DON KON DON KON | don-go (su) go DON KON :|

Part D: (su) go don-go don-GO (su) go | don-go don-GO (su) go don-go |  
don-GO (su su) |

Part E: |: don-go (su su) :| (3x) Don-go (su) Do |  
(su) go don-go (su) do KON | don-go (su) do (su) go DON | (su)  
go DON (su su) DON |

Ending: (su su) “SAN-CHI” DON

Performance: Group plays through, individuals move to HIRA drums and play through as solos or duets, group plays through to ENDING.