



## Bay Nian (拜年) (Taiwan)

The music creates the highly festive atmosphere of the Taiwanese New Year, while the dance movements emulate the actions the Taiwanese take when making ceremonial calls or pasting couplets on the door (as in the photo) at the New Year. When dancers say "Gong-Xi" to each other they are congratulating each other on surviving the demons of the past year. This dance was choreographed by Si-Min Wang in 1989.

Translation: Making a Ceremonial Call on the occasion of the New Year.

Pronunciation: BAY NYAN

Music: 4/4 meter *Folk Dances from Taiwan—Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2010, Band 5*

Formation: Couples in a single circle, facing center, W on M's R

Steps & Styling: Bay Nian position and action. L hand forms a fist, R palm grips the L fist, bending the upper body fwd. While shaking the joined hands several times, say "Gong-Xi" (meaning Congratulations!).

Meas      4/4 meter

Pattern

INTRODUCTION      Sound of firecrackers. No action.

CHORUS      Take Bay Nian pos.

1-4      Step R to R (cts 1-2); step L across in front R (cts 3-4); step R bkwd (cts 5-6); step L next to R (cts 7-8); hands together in Bay Nian pos and shake the joined hands several times with corner (cts 9-12); repeat Bay Nian with ptrs (cts 13-16); ending facing ptr.

I. CLAPS, PASTE COUPLET ON DOOR

1-4      Starting on R, take four steps, passing R shldr with ptr and changing places, facing new ptr (cts 1-8); bending both knees (cts 9-10); ; straighten both knees and touch the palm of the R hand with new ptr (cts 11-12); with opp hands repeat cts 9-12 (cts 13-16).

5-8      Starting on R, take four steps bkwd, passing L shldr with orig ptr, back to orig place (cts 1-8); starting on R, take four steps, making one CW turn, moving arms with bent elbows fwd and back in opposition to feet and end facing orig ptr (cts 9-16).

9-10      Touching both palms with ptr; leap ML and WR (cts 1-2); close twd ctr MR and WL (cts 3-4). Repeat cts 1-4 (cts 5-8).

11-12      Squat down to pick up couplet (cts 9-10); and stand up (cts 11-12); pantomime pasting the paper couplets high, half-way down and low on imaginary door posts without touching the other dancer's hands (cts 13-16).

13-16      Repeat meas 9-12 with opp ftwk and direction.

## Bay Nian — continued

II. CHANGE PARTNERS, BAY NIAN

- 1-2 Repeat Fig I, meas 1-2, facing new ptr.
- 3-4 M: straighten R knee, touch R heel to outside of circle, bending L knee (ct 1); Bay Nian to R with new ptr (cts 2); close ft together (cts 3-4); repeat cts 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction (cts 5-8).  
W: with ft together Bay Nian with new ptr (cts 1-8).
- 5-8 Repeat Fig 1 meas 5-8, back to orig place (cts 1-16).
- 9-12 Facing ctr with joined hands, starting on R, take eight very small running steps fwd, moving to ctr and lifting hands high (cts 1-8); release joined hands and Bay Nian with everybody (cts 9-16).
- 13-16 Starting on R take eight very small running steps bkwd, bringing both hands down to side (cts 1-8); Bay Nian with corner and then ptr (cts 9-16).

Sequence:

Chorus twice, Fig I, Chorus, Fig II, Chorus  
Chorus, Fig I, Chorus, Fig II, Chorus

Presented by Fang-Chich Chen

**Translation of characters in photo on previous page**

迎春 納福 開景運

Welcoming the spring/ Receiving the blessing/ Good fortune is coming (pasted on top of the door )

歲歲平安 合家歡

Safe and well in every year/ Happiness is in the whole family (pasted on the left side of the door)

年年如意 新春樂

Wishes granted in each year/ The spring is a joyful time (pasted on the right side of the door)