

## Gau Shan Ching (高山青)

(Taiwan Tzou tribe)

The song “High Green Mountain” was written in 1949, the collaborative work of the famous poet Yu-Ping Deng as its lyricist, and Lan-Ping Jou as the composer. It is the theme song of the movie “*The Magnificent Happenings on Mt. Ali*, directed by Cheh Chang. The movie may be long forgotten, but the song “High Green Mountain” has spread all over the world and become a representation of Taiwan. It is also a song with which all Taiwanese are familiar. Based on the steps of the aborigines, the main ideas of the lyrics describe the beauty of the young ladies and the strength of the young men who are the aborigines on Mt. Ali. They are the Tzou tribe. This dance was choreographed by Chang-Shiung Yang in June 1989.

Translation: The High Green Mountain

Pronunciation: GOW SAHN SHIHN

Music: 4/4 meter *Folk Dances of Taiwan–Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2010, Band 2*

Formation: Mixed circle of dancers facing ctr (or M in one line, W in one line); joined hands down in V-pos.

Steps & Styling: Schottish Step: Bending fwd and facing RLOD, step bwd on R (ct 1); step L behind R (ct 2); step R to R while standing straight (ct 3); hop on R swinging L fwd (ct 4). Can be done with opp ftwk and direction.

Grapevine Step: Step R in front of L (ct 1); step L to L (ct 2); step R behind L (ct 3); step L to L (ct 4). Can be done with opp ftwk and direction.

Step-Close: Step R (ct 1); step L next to R with wt (ct 2). Can be done with opp ftwk and direction.

Meas      4/4 meter

Pattern

8 meas      INTRODUCTION      No action.

INTERLUDE 1. Shout “Hey!” and start the dance.

1-4      Hands joined in V-pos, starting on R, take eight Step-Close steps, moving R (cts 1-16). Swing hands down and bkwd (ct 1); swing hands up and fwd (ct 2). Shout "Hey!" each time you step on R ft.

5      Standing with ft apart and bending knees, slap both thighs with both hands, swinging both hands to R and shifting wt to R (ct 1); slap both thighs with both hands, swinging both hands to L and shifting wt to L (ct 2); slap both thighs with both hands (ct 3); swing both hands with more force to R (ct 4). Head inclines slightly to the same side as the hands swing.

6      Repeat meas 5 opp direction.

7-8      Repeat meas 5-6.

## Gau Shan Ching — continued

I. SCHOTTISH STEP AND CLAPPING HANDS

- 1-4 Facing ctr, hands are joined and down in V-pos. Starting on R, one Schottish step to R (cts 1-4); repeat cts 1-4 with opp ftwk and direction (cts 5-8); repeat cts 1-8 (cts 9-16).
- 5-9 Step R in front of L, bending the upper part of the body to L, clapping both hands (ct 1); step L in place, clapping both hands (ct 2); abruptly face CCW and step R to R with arms raised high and wide, flicking both hands upward (ct 3); step L to R, flicking both hands again (ct 4). Repeat cts 1-4 four times (five times total); moving to R (cts 5-20).

II. GRAPEVINE STEP AND CLAPPING HANDS

- 1-4 Facing ctr, hands are joined and down in V-pos. Starting R in front of L, dance a Grapevine Step moving to L (cts 1-4); step R in front of L (ct 5); step L to L (ct 6); step R beside L (ct 7); hop on R, lifting L fwd (ct 8). Repeat cts 1-8 starting with L and moving to R, with opp ftwk and direction (9-16).
- 5-9 Repeat Fig I, meas 5-9 (cts 1-20).

III. SCHOTTISH STEP AND STEP-HOP

- 1-4 Repeat Fig I, meas 1-4 (cts 1-16).
- 5-9 Step R to ctr, upper body bending fwd (ct 1); hop on R, while lifting L behind, and swinging hands bkwd (ct 2); step-hop on L, while straightening upper body, hands joined slightly up, R foot is lifted in front (cts 3-4). Repeat cts 1-4 four times (five times total), moving to R (cts 5-20)

INTERLUDE 2. SLAP BOTH THIGHS

- 1-6 Repeat meas 5 of Interlude 1 a total of six times.

ENDING

- 1-4 Starting on R, take eight Step-Close steps, while holding both hands up above head height and turning both wrists inward and up and flicking hands eight times (cts 1-16). Hold both hands; shake both hands.
- 5, etc. Hands joined down in V-pos, facing diag R, heavy step R, lifting L beside R, leaning R and raising joined hands (ct 1); step fwd L, bringing joined hands down (ct &). Repeat cts 1, &, until the end of music. The leader can lead dancers in any direction.

Sequence:

Introduction

Interlude 1, Fig I, Fig II, Fig III

Interlude 2, Fig I, Fig II, Fig III

Ending

Presented by Fang-Chich Chen

9A (added to accommodate insertion of full song lyrics and translation)  
Gau Shan Ching — continued

**Lyrics**

The high mountain is green, the valley water blue.  
The girl on A-Li Mountain is as beautiful as the water.  
The boy in A-Li Mountain is as strong as the mountain.

The high mountain is always green, the valley water always blue.  
The girl and the young man will never part.  
The blue waters will flow around the mountain forever.

Gao Shan Ching Jian Shuei Lan  
A Li Shan De Gu Niang Mei Ru Shuei Ya  
A Li Shan De Shau Nian Jhuang Ru Shan  
A..... A.....

A Li Shan De Gu Niang Mei Ru Shuei Ya  
A Li Shan De Shao Nian Jhuang Ru Shan

Gao Shan Chang Ching Jian Shuei Chang Lan  
Gu Niang Han Na Shao Nian Yong Bu Fen Ya  
Bi Shuei Chang Wei Jhao Ching Shan Jhuan

Na Lu Wan Duo Yi Ya Na Ya Hei Yi Ya Hei  
Na Lu Wan An Duo Yi Ya Na Ya Hou Hai Ya  
Hou Yi Na Lu Wan Duo Yi Ya Na Ya Hou Ha: Ya

[Untranslated nonsense syllables  
similar to “La-Dee-Dah-Hey-Heidi-Ho”]