





EMBASSY OF JAPAN, WASHINGTON DC
JAPAN
INFORMATION & CULTURE CENTER

 JapanEmbDC.JICC

 user/JICCDC

 japanembdc

 JICCDC

TEACHING TUESDAY

HACHINOHE ENBURI

FEBRUARY 20, 2018

CC-BY-SA-3.0 Joe Mabel via Wikimedia Commons

A dance to celebrate the arrival of spring in the north, the Hachinohe Enburi Festival is an 800-year-old traditional folk celebration from Aomori Prefecture. This traditional dance is used to pray for a rich harvest after the long harsh winter.

Dancers, called tayu, wear large brilliantly-ornamented eboshi headdresses and perform traditional enburi dances called Naga-enburi and Dosai-enburi. The headdresses, shaped like colorful horse heads, are swept around in wide arcs as the tayu express the entire set of actions involved in rice cultivation, including sowing seeds and planting seedlings. There are even colorful night-time enburi dances. Between the dances of the tayu, children perform traditional dances.

The ritual is said to shake the gods of the field to wake them up and to put the people's spirits into the earth. The dance itself is said to take its name from a farm tool called "eburi".