

people from other parts of Japan visit the city to see it.

In Miyagi Prefecture, the fishermen sing a particular tupe of rythmical songs while sculling their boats and fishing (Side 2, N. 7). These songs are called songs for a good haul. The melody given here consists of two songs, Saitara-bushi and Toshima-jinku. The former was originally sung by a mine worker named Saitaro who changed it into a boat song when he became a fisherman. The latter was a song for Sake party. The text describes the sceneries of the seashore, the islands of the district, and the life and customs of the local people. The song begins with a prayer to the gods asking for their protection on sea and land.

The Okinawa islands (Side 2, N. 8) are situated in the south-western sea of Japan. Yaeyama Islands are in the southern part of Okinawa Islands, close to Taiwan. This is a country very rich in folk songs. The songs recorded here (Side 2, N. 8) are typical of Okinawa and quite different from those of Japan itself although the culture is basically the same.

The scale rather resembles that of South-east Asia, and the use of Jabisen, a three-stringed lute with a long stick and a small body covered with snake skin shows the influence of Chinese music. Hatoma-bushi, originally a song from a small island named Hatoma, is one of the most famous songs of Okinawa. The song used to be sung when people of the island joyfully looked at the boats that carried the rice and millet they paid as tax.