

# Nihon Hidankyo

A 32 bar strathspey for three couples in a longwise set.

This dance was written after my friend Scott Krieger encouraged me to watch the moving speeches at the 2024 Nobel Peace prize ceremony (18 minutes into <https://www.youtube.com/live/zqvPpz1hulw>). The award was given to the Japanese group Nihon Hidankyo which is comprised of survivors, known as Hibakusha, of the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. They persistently campaign against nuclear weapons and in support of the survivors who were ignored for a long time.

The dance starts with the Tourbillon representing the maelstrom of the bombs. Then first couple try to get the attention of their corners who initially ignore them but who are eventually brought around. The dance ends with a peaceful circle.

## Bars Description

- 1-8 1st and 2nd couples dance the Tourbillon. On the last 2 bars 1st couple turn three quarters with the right hand to face their 2nd corners.
- 9-12 1st couple set to their 2nd corners. The 2nd corners face in diagonally and set to the right for 1 bar then dance anticlockwise around the set, outside the 1st corners, to the opposite corner in 3 bars and face in diagonally. On bars 11-12 1st couple dance right shoulder round their partner to face their 2nd corner person in the 4th corner position.
- 13-16 1st couple take nearer hands with their 2nd corner person and guide them back round the set clockwise. After 3 bars 1st couple release hands with their 2nd corner and pass their partner right shoulder to end facing their 1st corner as the 2nd corners curve into their original places. Meanwhile the 1st corners advance, touch both hands and retire.
- 17-24 1st couple repeat the pattern of bars 9-16 with their 1st corners. The 2nd corners advance and retire on bars 21-24. On bar 24 1st couple pass each other right shoulder to end in 2nd place on their own side.
- 25-28 All set on the sides then cross over passing their partner left shoulder.
- 29-32 All slowly circle six hands half way round to the right. The final order is 3,1,2.

## Music

- Suggested tune: Croughly (William Marshall).
- Suitable recording: Chainwalk (Keith Smith and Muriel Johnstone: Vintage Goldring).

## Diagrams (music at the bottom)

