

Kuchi-shōga

This is the system of syllables used by the Japanese to teach music to taiko group members. Basics that you need to know for our work here:

Kuchi-shōga	Description
DON	Accented hit with your right hand...quarter note
KON	Accented hit with your left hand...quarter note
DO	Accented hit with your right hand...eighth note
RO	Accented hit with your left hand...eighth note
do	Unaccented hit with your right hand, eighth note
ko	Unaccented hit with your left hand, eighth note
ka	Soft rim hit with your right hand, eighth note
ra	Soft rim hit with your left hand, eighth note
(su)	Rest...eighth note

The piece that we will be learning is scripted out below:

ARASHI

Part A: |: DON KON DON KON :| (3x) DO RO DO RO DO RO (su su)

Part B: DON KON DO RO DO RO DO KON ko DON

Part C: DO KON ko DO KON ko DON KON (su) KO DON

Part D: DO KON ko DON KON

Part E: do ko do ko DO RO DO RO (echo)

|: DO RO DO RO (echo) :|

|: DO RO (echo) DO RO (echo) :|

Part F: DON do KON ko DON do KON ko DON KON

Performance: Group is split in half. While one half plays A, the other half plays an unaccented eighth note rhythm (do-ko-do-ko). Then the “lead” half plays the background while the following half plays A. Continue through the piece trading off letters or in the case of E, parts of the letter. Everyone plays section F together as an ending. Sections are played as: A-B-C-D-E-**[SOLOS]**-(switch roles...leaders become followers and vice versa)-A-B-C-D-E-F

ARASHI

Part A: |: DON KON DON KON :| (3x) DO RO DO RO DO RO (su su)

Part B: DON KON DO RO DO RO DO KON ko DON (su su)

Part C: DO KON ko DO KON ko DON KON (su) KO DON

Part D: DO KON ko DON KON

Part E: do ko do ko DO RO DO RO (echo)

|: DO RO DO RO (echo) :|

|: DO RO (echo) DO RO (echo) :|

Part F: DON do KON ko DON do KON ko DON KON