

Instruments of the *Hayashi*

The *hayashi* musicians use three instruments: *taiko* drums, which are tied with ropes and have a deep, throbbing tone comparable to a heartbeat; *shinobue* bamboo flutes; and *teburigane* hand cymbals. The drums are elevated onto a large rickshaw-like vehicle and spotlighted, so spectators can appreciate the strength and energy it takes to play them. The bamboo flutes follow along, playing the recognizable sing-song tune of the festival music; the small hand cymbals top off the concert of sounds, their merry jingle enlivening the group's melody. Two main melodies are usually repeated throughout the parade.

The drummers are always the first in the *hayashi* line-up, and their loud beating can be heard before the float comes into view and after it has passed by. The bamboo flutes and hand cymbals follow next in the *hayashi* line. These instruments are responsible for the actual melody followed by the *haneto* dancers, and accompany the *taiko* drums. The beat of the drums echoes through the town until the *hayashi* ensemble is well out of sight.