

Ueno Tenjin Festival: Higashimachi

Shirushi: Sakasanoshi

Danjiri: Kirimoto

The *shirushi* is called Sakasanoshi, meaning “upside-down *noshi*,” because the character for *noshi* (𨮞) was written upside-down on the central fan of the original *shirushi*. The current *shirushi* was made in 1978.

The Higashimachi *danjiri* float, Kirimoto, was named after the large paulownia tree (*kiri*) on the grounds of the Sugawara-jinja Shrine in Higashimachi. This *danjiri* notably lacks a middle curtain, which would normally conceal a small inner room. The side and rear curtains depict a banquet in an orchid pavilion next to a winding stream. The *danjiri* itself is covered in images of chrysanthemums, peonies, and the auspicious triad of pine, bamboo, and plum blossoms (*shō-chiku-bai*).

The musical accompaniment for the Kirimoto *danjiri* is unique. The other floats are typically accompanied with strong, rhythmic music, but performers on the Kirimoto *danjiri* use small gongs, taiko drums, *shinobue* flutes, hand drums, and a shamisen to play calm, elegant compositions.