

Folk Performing Arts



Including both new and old, there are 9 forms of folk performing arts in Shibetsu City. Of these, the *Mizuho-shishimai* (Mizuho Lion Dance) from Asahicho and the *Hinata Jindai Kagura* (a traditional Shinto dance) from Tayoro-cho are two that have been passed down over many years.

It is said that the *Mizuho-shishimai* of Asahicho began in 1916 with the performance of a dance in imitation of the *Etchu-tonami-jishi* lion of Toyama Prefecture to pray for a bountiful harvest and ward off evil spirits at a festival of the Okushibetsu Shrine (the predecessor to the present-day Asahi Shrine). The dance was designated a cultural property of the former Asahicho in 1969 and was later registered as a designated cultural property of Shibetsu City. Today this dance is performed at the neighborhood culture festival as well as the annual festival of the Asahi Shrine.



The *Hinata Jindai Kagura* is a traditional Shinto kagura dance said to have roots in the *Daimon Kagura* dance from the city of Ichinoseki in Iwate Prefecture that began in the Hinata district of Tayoro Village (what is now the western part of the Nakatayoro District of Tayoro-cho) in 1908. It is said that the villagers would make a total of nine performances over three days and three nights to pray for a bountiful harvest and the prosperity of their descendants among other things at the Hinata Shrine that once stood in the district.

