# SHINTO

# Haru matsuri

Spring and autumn are frequently chosen as seasons for religious festivals. Because life is sustained by agriculture, it is considered to be a matter of greatest importance to pray to the gods for an abundant harvest. Toshigoi no Matsuri is a famous festival held in the spring to pray for a good harvest. matsuri, (Japanese: “festival”), in general, any of a wide variety of civil and religious ceremonies in Japan; more particularly, the shrine festivals of Shinto. The Haru Matsuri "Spring Festival" highlighting celebrating Asian and Pacific Islander Culture through martial art demonstrations, cultural dancers, musical performances, cultural demonstrations, Asian food vendors, and masquerade contest.   
The Gion Matsuri began in 869 as a way to appease the gods during an epidemic. Every year, as per tradition, a local boy is chosen as a sacred messenger to the gods. Haru Matsuri literally means spring festival. The Japanese carry out ​​a lot of activities and events, that traditionally were intended to pray for a new crop and to welcome the spring. With spring comes the blooming period, which for the Japanese means change, a new beginning.

# Gion matsuri

The Gion Festival is one of the largest and most famous festivals in Japan, taking place annually during the month of July in Kyoto. Many events take place in central Kyoto and at the Yasaka Shrine, the festival's patron shrine, located in Kyoto's famous Gion district, which gives the festival its name. The Gion Matsuri began in 869 as a way to appease the gods during an epidemic. Every year, as per tradition, a local boy is chosen as a sacred messenger to the gods. From July 13 until the first parade ends on July 17, he sits on one of the many elaborate floats and his feet never touch the ground. Food and beer are integral parts of the Gion Matsuri. Night stalls sell yakitori, fish-shaped taiyaki cookies, okonomiyaki pancakes that have been called “Japanese pizza,” mochi, traditional sweets, and other items to delight traveling foodies.

It is held annually from July 1 to 31 as the midsummer celebration of Yasaka Jinja Shrine.

The Main Event: The Float Procession of 17 July (Sama Matsuri Junko) Starting at 9am on 17 July, 23 of the huge yama and hoko are hauled from their staging places around the Shijo-Karasama intersection east along Shijo-dori, then north along Kawaramachi-dori, before turning west on Oike-dori. It takes place only in odd-numbered years (alternating with the Sanno Matsuri) and technically lasts an entire week, although the main parade occurs on the Saturday closest to May 15th, when over 300 people — bearing 100 mikoshi — march through the streets of central Tokyo.

# Prayer of good Harvest

Now Lord we dedicate this festival of harvest thanks giving to you Bless us, strengthen us, unite us in your love. Minister: In the Spring we ask for God's blessing on all growing crops. Now in Autumn, our prayers answered, we bring the finest fruits of our harvest in thankfulness to God.

he Harvest Festival occurs on the Sunday nearest to the appearance of the harvest moon.

The modern British tradition of celebrating Harvest Festival in churches began in 1843, when the Reverend Robert Hawker invited parishioners to a special thanksgiving service at his church at Morristown in Cornwall.

Lord and Bountiful Creator, giver of grains and seeds, of fruits and berries and all that grows from the earth, we thank You and we bless You for this year's harvest. We lift up our hearts in gratitude to the Sun, which, together with rain, wind and earth, worked in harmony to produce this bountiful harvest. God, we pray, earnestly, to you the Lord of the harvest, send out laborers into your harvest field. That they might know your love. They might know you as the shepherd who saves their souls forever. God, we pray for this in Jesus name.

God has given us a harvest of blessings. We can be thankful for salvation, redemption, healing, deliverance, favor, provision, protection, guidance, peace, joy, family, spiritual gifts, talents, etc.

# Sano Masturi

The shrine is also associated with the Tokugawa family who ruled during the Edo period (1603-1867). They used this shrine festival to celebrate Edo becoming the new center of Japan. (Edo was the former name for Tokyo). Celebratory festival and Tokyo rite of worship  
  
More than a week-long festival culminating in a traffic-stopping, parade, Sanno Matsuri is one of the three biggest festivals in Japan and one of the top festivals in Tokyo. The main attraction of the festival is the "Shinkosai" parade, which takes place every two years. The shrine has a long history, dating back to 1478, when it was built to ensure good fortune during the construction of the castle in Edo (now Tokyo). The highlight of the festival is the procession of portable shrines, which meandered through Edo Castle during the Edo period (1603-1868) and was viewed by the shogun.

The Spring Takayama Festival, or Sanno Matsuri, is an annual festival of Hie Shrine and celebrates the coming of spring. The festival parade is held on the south side of Yasugawa St, bordering Takayama's Old Town district.