

Staff Roles

TANTO – Spiritual Leader

INJI – Assistant to Roshi

JIKI-JITSU – Meditation Leader

JOKEI – Assistant to Jiki-Jitsu

JISHA – Caretaker and Assistant(s)

INO – Chanting Leader

GYORIN – Drummer

INO – Chanting leader

Responsibilities

1. Rings morning bonsho
2. Rings bells for Roshi's bows during formal entrance
3. Leads the chanting for morning service
4. Leads "Song of Zazen" at the beginning of the teisho
5. Rings evening bonsho

Morning Bonsho (15 minutes before morning service)

LOUD... soft... soft...

Strike bell, 1 minute apart

When it's time for morning service, then

...soft... soft... LOUD

Morning Service (see videos)

Ino leads the service with his/her presence and voice. His/her voice should be heard among all the voices during reading and chanting, acting as an anchor for the other voices.

When the densho ends, Roshi begins the first bow. Strike the large bell for each bow as Roshi's head dips, 4 bows/bells in all.

Your part begins with the "**Great Wisdom Heart Sutra.**" When announcing a chanting piece, hold a clear tone with one steady note in the middle range. This is very important, since everyone else has to harmonize with your voice. You also lead the pace.

Allow the large bell to ring out slightly and then announce, "Great Wisdom Heart Sutra" – ***ding...*** (with the small bell) and begin the Heart Sutra.

The progression of bells in the beginning of the Heart Sutra is marked in the Ino's book. The pace of the chanting starts very slowly, and with each bell speeds up smoothly and gradually. By the time the bells go into a fast progression, the chanting should be up to a vigorous speed.

Strike the large bell on "Shariputra." The chanting is up to cruising speed by then, and we maintain that speed through the end of the chant. At the end, it flows straight into the "Heart Sutra Dharani," and the drum beat shifts, but the pacing is unbroken. "Heart Sutra Dharani" is recited 3 times with one small bell at the top of each round; the series of bells on the third time ends with a progression on "Bodhi Swaha..."

After a short pause, read, "**Pure Awareness is transcending...**"

Chant the beginning of the **Dedication** solo, holding a clear tone. Strike the small bell preceding the names, and everyone joins in the dedication at that point. Hit the large bell on the "Ones" of the last phrase.

After a brief pause, chant "**Pure Awareness Dharani,**" *ding...* "Look, look, Pure Awareness..."

This chant, just like the Heart Sutra, starts very slowly. Set the pace by stretching out the announcement so the drum comes in with the same spacing. Gradually pick up the pace right from the beginning so the first round is slow, the second is slightly faster, the third is slightly faster, and so on. Allow this to happen as slowly and as gradually as possible. Maintain a slow to moderate pace as the first third of the circle performs their bows at the mirror; a moderately energetic pace as the second third of the circle is performing their bows; and a vigorous cruising speed for the last third. Don't go too fast, however, or people burn out and the energy is lost. The energy should carry through the end where it is dispersed with an explosive **NO!** shout.

These are the guidelines, but the chanting is an organic process. Be sensitive and responsive to facilitating the energy and pace of the group. It will be necessary to practice with the Gyorin to get coordination and harmonization. Do this during breaks, whenever possible.

The Pure Awareness Dharani is recited in four phases: in the first phase, each individual line is repeated four times; then it is repeated three times, then two times and finally it is recited straight through. There is a small bell preceding each change. The bell must come *before* the change – not on the change. In some instances, it may be necessary to strike the bell on the last syllable of the preceding phrase.

Towards the end, when the chanting is read through without any repeating, a bell signals the change to the next phrase. There is one bell after the 4th phrase; then there are no more bells until the second to last round which begins when Roshi is seated after the dance. Signal the second to last round with one bell each at the top of the 1st phrase. For the last round, follow all the red and blue markings in the Sutra book.

With the “Swaha” completed, take a full inhale and initiate the **NO!** shout. There is a complete release in the **NO!** shout, and people should sit up into perfect stillness. Leave a pause of approximately 2 minutes.

The Ino’s voice then announces Awakened Ones Vow, and is the first sound to break the silence. Announce it in a reading voice, “**Awakened One’s Vow**” – **ding...** “When I, a true woman/man of no rank...” There is one large bell on “Wisdom” to finish. Allow the bell to ring out slightly.

Then announce “**Four Awakened Vows**” – **ding...** This is also a reading piece. One small bell precedes each phrase.

Following the last phrase, begin the bells for the four bows.

Ding... (bow) **Ding, ding...** (stand up)

Progression... (starting slowly, getting ready: priests are unfolding their zagus and laying them on the floor)

Ding... (1st formal bow) **Dink** (stand up)

Ding... (2nd formal bow) **Dink** ... while people are standing up - **ding** (slightly softer, warning to clergy to pick up zagu next time)

Ding ... (3rd formal bow) **Dink** ... while people are standing up - **ding** (slightly softer, warning to clergy to pick fold zagu) ... second **ding** (warning that tanto is almost finished folding zagu)

Ding... (greeting bow) **Hand damp** (stand up)

Evening Bonsho (at the start of evening session)

LOUD... soft... soft...

7 strikes, 30-45 seconds apart, then

...soft... soft... LOUD!