

# Boleslav

(Czech Republic)

Boleslav is a popular party dance, well known throughout Bohemia. It is named after the town of Boleslav northeast of Prague. It is also the name of several Polish/Bohemian kings, including the brother of the fabled Good King Wenceslas (Vaclav). Boleslav, according to legend, murdered Vaclav to ascend the throne. Boleslav is a very popular folk song characterized by 8 measures of 4/4 time alternating with 8 measures of 2/4 time. There are other dances done to this same music.

Pronunciation: BOH-leh-slahf

Cassette: Dances from the Czech Republic, Stockton Folk Dance Camp 2000      4/4 and 2/4 meter

Formation: Couples in semi-open position in two lines facing each other across the hall. Each couple must be matched with another in the opposite line. Lines should be about 40 feet apart.

## Meas

## Pattern

4/4 meter      INTRODUCTION. None.

### I. GALLOP WITH SKIPS

- A 1-4      Cpls in semi-open position, 8 gallop steps (step, close, step, starting ML, WR) across to opposite side with M passing back to back (i.e., cpls pass to R of each other).  
 5-8      Without turning gallop 8 steps back to original place, again passing with M back to back.

2/4 meter

- B 1-4      Ptrs take R hands and skip around each other CW, 8 skip steps.  
 5-8      Reverse direction and hand hold (L hands) and dance 8 skip steps CCW.

### II. GALLOP, ROCKS AND POLKAS

- A 1-2      Dance 4 gallop steps toward opp cpl.  
 3-4      Rock back on trailing foot with M's L, W's R coming up in front, rock fwd. lifting trailing ft up behind, rock back again, and fwd again.  
 5-6      Turn to face wall and do 4 gallop steps away from each other.  
 7-8      Rock as in meas 3-4 but now facing wall.  
 B 1-4      With R elbows linked, do 4 polka steps CW with ptr.  
 5-8      Reverse elbows and direction and dance 4 polka steps CCW.

### III. GALLOP WITH ARCHES AND BUZZ

- A 1-4      Cpls. gallop twd. each other with cpl having M's back twd music making a 2-handed arch, and other cpl passing under arch; 8 gallop steps.  
 5-8      Swing with ptr (CW) with 8 buzz steps.  
 B 1-4      Gallop back to place with other cpl forming arch and first cpl going under; 8 gallop steps.  
 5-8      Swing (8 buzz steps) with ptr.

## Boleslav—continued

IV. GALLOP, WOMEN PASS FACE TO FACE, BUZZ

- A 1-4 Cpls gallop twd each other, as if to pass with W on inside, but at last moment, cpls separate and W pass each other face to face.  
 5-8 Swing ptr with 8 buzz steps.
- B 1-4 Gallop back to place again with W passing face to face on inside.  
 5-8 Swing (8 buzz steps) with ptr.

V. GALLOP, MEN PASS FACE TO FACE, BUZZ

- A,B 1-8 As in Fig IV, but M pass each other face to face on inside (cpls approach each other as if to pass to the R with M back to back).

VI. GALLOP TO CIRCLE, POLKA

- A 1-4 Dance 8 gallop steps in LOD to form circle.  
 5-8 Dance 8 gallop steps in RLOD.
- B\* 1-8 Free-style polka to end of music.  
 \*Alternative for VI B:  
 Face ptr, stamp 3 times (meas 1); clap 3 times (meas 2); wag R finger at ptr 3 times (meas 3); wag left finger 3 times (meas 4); circle away from each other and back to face ptr with 3 slow walks (or 3 polka steps), and stamp (meas 5-8).

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